FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 DECEMBER 1984

Lebanon

The atmosphere in southern Shi'ite villages was "tense" after Israeli troops detained "scores" of people in the 13 December operation against "terrorist cells," Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF killed one "terrorist" who was "trying to escape," and a local girl was also killed by Israeli fire, the radio said, but the death of a third person was the result of a family feud and was unrelated to the IDF operation. Seven other Lebanese were wounded in the raids on five villages near Tyre. The Israelis seized large quantities of arms and ammunition and their captives include a terrorist band of six persons caught with their weapons, the radio disclosed. Two IDF soldiers were subsequently wounded in an ambush in the Tyre area, IDF radio reported.

In remarks reported by Beirut radio, Minister for Southern Affairs and Reconstruction Nabih Birri urged southerners to denounce Israel's "new crime" and to stage a general strike in protest on 15 December.

Meanwhile, after bad weather forced the postponement of the 13 December talks at Al-Naqurah, the UNIFIL spokesman announced that the next meeting will be held on 17 December, according to Beirut radio.

In West Beirut, a senior Druze officer in the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade was assassinated by gunmen early on 14 December, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Security sources cited by WAKH accused Israel's Mosad of staging the attack in an attempt to explode the security situation.

Israel

Relations With Egypt — Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has told the Israeli ambassador in Cairo that Egypt is willing to discuss the Tabah issue in alternate talks at Beersheba and Ismailia, Jerusalem television announced. Noting that the Egyptians had previously demanded that the talks be held in a neutral country, the television described the change in Egypt's position as a "breakthrough." Earlier, the daily *HA'ARETZ* viewed a recent meeting between local Israeli and Egyptian police commanders at the Tabah border crossing as a "significant, positive turning point" in Israeli-Egyptian relations in Tabah, pointing out that the two sides made agreements on cooperation and the exchange of information.

North African Affairs

Tunisian-Libyan Relations — Tunisia is "not pleased" with the presence in Libya of Tunisian opposition groups receiving military training, and wishes to draw Libya's attention to this "abnormal" situation, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Esebsi stated in a KUNA interview. He called on Libya to close the camps and expel the Tunisian groups, asserting that such a decision would "positively affect" bilateral relations.

Mauritanian Coup — Libya officially recognized the new Mauritanian regime in a cable from the Libyan foreign liaison secretary to the Mauritanian foreign minister, JANA reported. Nouakchott radio has not been heard to confirm AFP reports that former Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala has returned to Nouakchott.

Iran

The U.S. Administration has exercised "a form of press censorship" over remarks made by two U.S. passengers from the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner because their "praise" for Iran's efforts to release them "angered" the U.S. authorities, according to an IRNA dispatch from Washington cited by Tehran radio.

Gulf Affairs

Following the recent hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner, the GCC General Secretariat has begun contacts with member countries to take "certain collective measures" to fend off the dangers threatening the security of the Gulf countries, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah disclosed in a television interview reported by WAKH. As for the GCC radio station which began broadcasting from Kuwait to cover the GCC summit, Bisharah indicated that it will shortly resume transmission on a permanent basis, with member states each providing 2-hours of the daily output.

FBIS

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'Arafat Returns to Tunis From Morocco

JN131729 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Tunis from Morocco yesterday after a 1-day official visit during which he met with King Hassan II. Our correspondent has learned that Abu 'Ammar briefed the Moroccan king on the recommendations and resolutions of the PNC which concluded recently in Amman. They also discussed the latest Arab, Palestinian, and international developments.

PLO Executive Committee To Meet in Tunis

JN131719 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee will meet in Tunis today under Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Brother Muhammad Milhim, member of the Executive Committee, said the committee will discuss several topics including the distribution of responsibilities within its departments. He said it will also discuss ways of implementing the PNC resolutions, foremost of which are the Palestinian-Jordanian joint plan, escalation of armed struggle inside the occupied homeland — the main battlefield — and reinforcing national Palestinian unity.

PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and three PLO Executive Committee members arrived in Tunis today to attend the Executive Committee meetings.

PLO Official Denies 'Arafat Interview

GF140421 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] An official spokesman stated the following: The magazine *AL-HAWADITH* has published an alleged interview with Brother 'Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. The PLO would like to announce that Brother 'Abu 'Ammar has not made any statement to this magazine, not before, during or after the meeting of the PNC, and that this interview is baseless. We wonder how such a well-known magazine as *AL-HAWADITH* should get involved in such a trick by one of its unknown correspondents without verifying this alleged interview.

Kuwaiti Paper Reports Palestinian Initiative

GF131852 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Dec 84 p 19

[Excerpts] Amman — For the first time since the convocation of the 16th session of the PNC in Algiers, the Palestinian sides that are opposed to the policy of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] find themselves obliged to reach an understanding on a defined platform that can be accepted by all sides with the aim of implementing it.

Observers believe that the quiet reactions of the various Palestinian sides toward the convocation of the PNC in Amman conceal a pragmatic intention to respond to it by reaching a tangible conclusion and not just by protesting against it.

According to reliable and confirmed reports obtained by *AL-QABAS*, secret talks are currently taking place among the various Palestinian factions that absented themselves from the Amman PNC session. These contacts also include a number of the independent elements who attended the PNC sessions and expressed their rejection of what took place there. This alliance includes eight Palestinian organizations, four of which constitute the Democratic Alliance and four others the National Alliance. Those constituting the Democratic Alliance are: the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Libeation of Palestine, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Arab Liberation Front. Those constituting the National Alliance are the [Fatah] dissidents, Al-Sai'qah, the General Command [the PFLP-GC], and the Popular Struggle Front. These are opposed to Abu 'Ammar. These organizations recently reached a common denominator on the platform that was proposed by 30 leading personalities currently in Amman. These personalities had proposed an initiative calling for the postponement of the PNC prior to its convocation. The contacts about the new initiative encompass Palestinian personalities living in Amman, Damascus, Kuwait, and other Arab countries.

It is certain that this new move will be launched from Amman and will be led by an 18-member committee, that had been assigned by the Central Committee the duty of eliminating Palestinian differences, and a 30-member committee, that had submitted its proposals to postpone the PNC. This initiative is backed by the National and the Democratic Alliances in addition to a number of Palestinian figures, some of whom took part in the latest PNC sessions. This initiative is based on the following points:

1. Blocking the establishment of an alternate or a second liberation organization and refraining from forming an alliance designed to ultimately emerge as a political framework for a certain organization or for Palestinian representation.

2. Alleviating the overreaction toward the convocation of the PNC in Amman and refraining from any measures that may disturb the Arab atmosphere, including media escalation.

3. Considering the Amman PNC session as if it did not exist; moving forward starting from the 16th session of the PNC which was held in Algiers in addition to the naming of members and endorsement of memberships. The 16th session of the PNC held in Algiers mirrored Palestinian unity. Practical steps should start with holding a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue on clear political and organizational bases.

4. Ignoring what took place at the Amman PNC sessions, while what is required is the convocation of the PLO Central Council, which represents all the Palestinian factions, and to have the first Palestinian dialogue held through this very council of members. These people are capable of holding a protracted dialogue where there will be no need for speeches. Then, a call will be made for the convocation of the PNC — where this will represent the overall national unity — after all the sides and factions have

reached an understanding through the meetings of the Central Council.

5. Holding a dialogue with the Fatah Central Committee and the various Fatah leaderships on the steps necessary to make this initiative successful; convening the Central Committee; and convening the PNC in a way that represents the unity of the PLO.

6. Holding the most expanded contacts with Palestinian personalities inside and outside of the occupied Arab territories in order to back this trend which is designed solely to restore PLO unity on firm and clear bases. Foremost of these bases is adherence to the unity of the Palestinian factions through the framework of the PLO and the PNC. The Palestinian factions — mainly, Fatah — should be viewed as representing the military option which must not be eliminated. This must remain the first option until the goal of the Palestinian people in liberating [their homeland] is attained.

7. Demanding that a quorum be attained in the proposed PNC session by basing this on Palestinian laws as was followed in all previous PNC's — excluding that session which took place in Amman. This is to be based on two main points, the first of which is the organizational quorum — that is, the number of armed organizations that take part in the PNC. It is conditional that all factions take part. If it is harder to ensure the attendance of all the factions than that the organizational quorum should exceed two-thirds of the PNC factions. The second point pertains to the actual personalities taking part in the PNC and not the number.

These are the broad lines of this initiative which, for the first time, enjoys the support of the Palestinian armed factions that comprise the National Alliance, the Democratic Alliance, and the other Palestinian sides. This initiative certainly faces no Arab opposition since everybody supports the restoration of PLO unity.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Secretary General on Kuwait Summit, Radio

GF131952 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Manama, Dec 13 (WAKH) — The Kuwait summit resolutions have truely reflected the aspirations and ambitions of the GCC countries leaders and peoples in all political, economic, defence, and security fields, GCC Secretary General Abdallah Bisharah said. The Kuwait summit has buttressed the principle of self-reliance on the basis that GCC countries alone should shoulder the responsibility of defending the region and maintaining its stability devoid of any foreign intervention, Mr Bisharah stressed.

In an interview to be broadcast by Bahrain Television tonight, Mr Bisharah said that the Kuwait summit had made this principle a reality, and has for the first time formed a unified military force. Mr Bisharah refuted Western reports concerning the GCC countries' inability to depend on themselves in protecting their lands. The Western countries and their media were mocking the principle of self-reliance, saying that it was only a political idea and that ensuring reality was difficult. The Kuwait summit has fostered the credibility of the principle of self-reliance. It has also made a big stride in this field, Mr Bisharah said.

The GCC leaders had discussed means of maintaining the Gulf regions stability through the formation of a unified force to defend the region against any foreign aggression and those intending to meddle with the regions internal security, Mr Bisharah added. These are certain displeasing signs in the offing, Mr Bisharah said, adding that the hijacking of the Kuwait Airways airbus was directed against Kuwait and the other countries in the Gulf and against the region's security and stability. The GCC General Secretariat is in contact with the member countries to take certain collective measures to fend off the dangers threatening the security of the Gulf countries, Mr Bisharah said.

He said the resumption of broadcasting in the Voice of the Gulf Cooperation Council [Kuwait voice of Cooperation Council] will take place within next two weeks. "Every member state will have two hours transmission in conjunction with other member states to ensure coverage of the required topics," he said.

Mr Bisharah affirmed that GCC television stations should convey opinions and directives of the member states through paying attention to their televised news.

On the GCC economic agreement, Mr Bisharah said that the council completed its first stage, represented by the institution of a unified customs union among the member states and the cancellation of customs duties on national industrial and agricultural products.

He affirmed that the establishment of the customs union contributed towards a booming trade and revival of the domestic industry which suffered from a lack of markets.

He pointed out that the second phase will witness the formation of joint ventures on a large scale by the private sector of the member states.

Mr Bisharah hoped that the third and final stage would solve issues related to insurance and banking, so as to achieve the hopes and aspirations of the GCC leaders and nationals.

Mr Bisharah stressed the importance of the security of information in the GCC member states and warned of all imported and alien ideologies which adversely affect the morals, heritage civilization, and traditions of the region.

He called on the GCC mass media to expose such ideologies, and the programmes broadcast by foreign media derogatory of the countries of the area.

He also called on the media to play a role in explaining items and articles of the GCC economic agreement to boost the GCC economy and achieve national unity.

Mr Bisharah expressed appreciation for the GCC broadcasting station (sawt al-ta'awun al-khaliji) which commenced its broadcast in Kuwait during the fifth GCC summit in Kuwait.

He said that he held talks with Saudi information minister and would hold similar discussions with other information ministers in GCC member states to consolidate matters relating to the broadcasting station.

KUWAIT

CSU Delegation Attending Soviet Cooperatives Meeting

LD132236 Kuwait KUNA in English 1741 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 13, (KUNA) — Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Cooperative Societies Union (CSU) 'Ali Salem Abu Hadeda Thursday said that a delegation representing the CSU is currently attending the 11th conference of the Soviet cooperative movement, which opened last Tuesday in the Soviet capital. Abu Hadeda indicated that during its seven-day meetings the delegation will acquaint itself with accomplishments made by the Soviet cooperative movement.

The Kuwaiti delegation to the Moscow conference is led by chairman of the union, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mudahka, and includes head of the public relations and information committee of the union, Nami Mefleh al-Nami.

AL-WATAN on Murphy's Arrival in Region

GF131940 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Manama, Dec 13 (WAKH) — A Kuwaiti daily affirmed Thursday that the United States does not want an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon because this would mean an American policy exit from the region. Daily *AL-WATAN*, commenting on the arrival of the American envoy Richard Murphy to the region, said that those who believe that Murphy's talks will only ensure an Israeli withdrawal, are mistaken.

The U.S. wanted the Israeli military invasion of Lebanon as a beginning to an American political invasion of the Middle East, therefore it does not want the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon to signal an exit to the American policy from the region, the paper added.

It referred to the joint navy maneuvers carried out by the U.S. and Israel on the seashores of the Mediterranean, which coincide with Murphy's maneuvers on the political front.

The daily pointed out that while Israel threatens of partial and unilateral withdrawal from the south, Murphy is drawing up a new Lebanese-Israeli agreement which is not more than an amended copy of the abrogated May 17th agreement.

In spite of all this, the paper said we are optimistic that all the Israeli military acrobatics and the political acrobatics of its Phalangist allies and the so-called Lebanese forces, are not able to change the internal national Lebanese balance, which is strengthened by the armed struggle against the enemy in the south.

OMAN

Briefs

Envoy to UK Credentials — Queen of the United Kingdom, Elizabeth II, received the credentials of Husayn ibn Muhammad ibn 'Ali, Omani ambassador to the United Kingdom. [Summary] [*Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Dec 84 GF*]

Envoy to Mexico — 'Ali ibn Salim ibn Badr al-Hana'i, Omani ambassador to the United States, presented his credentials yesterday to the Mexican foreign minister as Omani nonresident ambassador to Mexico. [Summary] [*Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Dec 84 GF*]

New Ground Forces Commander — His Majesty Sultan Qabus has issued an order to appoint Major General Nasib ibn Hamad al-Rawahi as commander of the Sultanate of Oman ground forces. [Summary] [*Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 11 Dec 84 p 8 GF*]

QATAR

Oil Minister Leaves for Geneva OPEC Meeting

GF140819 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0742 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Doha, 14 Dec (WAKH) — Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of finance and oil, and his delegation left Doha for Geneva this morning to attend the OPEC Ministerial Council meeting, scheduled to be held there on 19 December. The council will discuss oil market developments and differences of OPEC oils.

Oil Minister Discusses Production Prices

GF140429 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Doha, Dec 13, (WAKH) — Qatar's minister of finance and oil, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, voiced optimism over future market prospects for OPEC oil with a positive impact on oil prices.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz in an interview with Qatar daily *AL-RAYAH* outlined four major factors expected to work in OPEC's favour. One of these factors, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz was quoted as saying, is that Norway and other oil producing countries which are not members of OPEC are likely to think carefully before taking any decision that might endanger the world economic situation.

At this time I do not see Norway or any other (oil producing) country having an economic excuse to effect a price reduction, because any such step would be contrary to changes expected in the supply and demand situation, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz said.

Speaking on the eve of the forthcoming OPEC ministerial meeting, due to open in Geneva on Wednesday, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz anticipated that the ministers will retain the current overall production ceiling of 16 mn bpd [million barrels per day] unless of course, new developments force a change.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz noted that the ministerial meeting will discuss a provisional agreement reached by the OPEC Ministerial Committee, at a meeting held in Kuwait recently, to correct the price differential between light and heavy crude oils. He described the agreement as a step towards a strengthening of the crude market and OPEC's price structure.

A further factor calling for optimism according to Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz is that an average destocking of 3 mn bdp by oil companies of the consuming countries indicates that demand has increased, a matter which will have a clear effect either on the price structure or on production quotas.

SAUDI ARABIA

Bahraini Defense Minister Arrives in Zahran

LD131743 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1408 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Zahran, 13 Dec (SPA) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, the heir apparent and commander of Bahrain's Defense Force arrived in Zahran this afternoon on a private visit to the Kingdom.

UAE

Briefs

Dubai Trade Figures — According to a statistical report of the Customs and Ports Department, exports and reexports through the Dubai harbors during the first 7 months of 1984 totalled 941,434 tons, with a value of 3,498,310,487 dirhams. Exports alone, excluding crude oil, totalled 600,416 tons, with a value of

1,184,035,011 dirhams. Reexports totalled 341,018 tons with a value of 2,314,275,476 dirhams, and constituted 66 percent of all exports. [Excerpt] [*Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 6 Dec 84 p 2 GF*]

PDRY

Reportage on Visit of USSR's Ashimov

Ashimov Arrives, Makes Statement

GF131812 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Comrade Bayken Ashimovich Ashimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and member of the CPSU Central Committee, and his accompanying delegation, have begun a visit to our country that will last for several days. The Soviet delegation arrived in Aden this morning. It was received at the Aden International Airport by Staff Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; Dr Mutlaq 'Abdallah Hasan, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Comrade Vladislav Petrovich Zhukov, USSR ambassador in Aden; and officials of the Soviet Embassy in Aden.

On his arrival Comrade Ashimov made a press statement in which he expressed his and his delegation's great pleasure in visiting our country. He said: The USSR and PDRY exchange visits of parliamentary delegations have become a good tradition, reflecting the high level of our bilateral relations and the eagerness of our two peoples for strengthening friendship and cooperation between our two countries. He added: The Soviet-Yemeni friendship began and was consolidated during the PDRY people's struggle for national independence. It acquired a new dimension when the YSP and PDRY people adopted the socialist direction aiming at achieving radical social and economical changes in the interest of the toilers.

In his statement, Comrade Ashimov referred to the friendship and cooperation treaty between the Soviet Union and PDRY, signed in October 1975. He emphasized that this treaty expresses the strength of Soviet-Yemeni relations and is an important and effective tool for developing multisided bilateral relations and cooperation in the interest of international peace and security. He pointed out that the constant peaceful Soviet foreign policy represents a secure and formidable bastion for the independent progress of countries which are rid of imperialist tyranny. He said that the PDRY experiment has categorically proven this; not only has the PDRY rid itself of imperialist hegemony, it also has attained many goals for its people.

Comrade Ashimov stressed Soviet support for the PDRY people's struggle, pointing out that this Soviet stand was emphasized during the meeting of Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, with Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in Moscow last month. He confirmed that his visit to the PDRY will contribute tangibly toward bolstering friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries. He said that the visit will enable him to be cognizant of the PDRY's developments in various fields.

The PDRY-Soviet talks began at the Presidium Secretariat headquarters today. Participating on the Yemeni side were: Staff Colonel 'Ali 'Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami, member of the Presidium, chairman of the Committee for Foreign Relations, and chairman of the National Parliamentary Department; 'Ayidah 'Ali Sa'id, member of the Supreme People's Council and deputy minister of culture and tourism; Mahmud Tarmum, member of the Supreme People's Council; Mustafa 'Abd al-Khaliq, Presidium adviser; 'Ali Munassar Muhammad, director of the Office for East European and Soviet Affairs at the Foreign Ministry; and Mustafa Yasin (?Ragi al-Nar), director of the Office of International Organizations at the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

On the Soviet side were: Comrade Bayken Ashimov, head of the Soviet delegation; (?Vera Lebedeva), member of the State Committee for Social Problems and director of [words indistinct] health center; [name indistinct] Aleksandrovich, member of the State Committee for Transport and Communication and director of maritime lines and Black Sea ports; Nicoli (?Katarchok), deputy minister of agriculture and head of the scientific organization for supplying agriculture with chemical materials; and Vladislav Petrovich, Soviet ambassador in Aden.

Talks With Soviets Begin

GF132014 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Official talks between the delegations of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium and the Supreme Soviet Presidium were held at the Presidium palace in Aden today. The PDRY side was headed by Staff Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. The Soviet side was headed by Comrade Bayken Ashimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and member of the CPSU Central Committee.

Col 'Ali 'Antar gave a speech welcoming Comrade Ashimov and his accompanying delegation to the PDRY and wishing them a good and happy stay. He expressed satisfaction over the attained level of relations between the PDRY and the friendly Soviet Union, based on the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two friendly countries, and hoped that these relations would continue to be bolstered. Col 'Antar said: This visit will contribute toward developing the multisided bilateral cooperation, especially in the parliamentary field. It will also facilitate the

exchange of opinions and experiences regarding numerous issues of common concern.

On behalf of the YSP and PDRY people, he expressed deep appreciation of the multi-sided aid given to the PDRY by the friendly Soviet people led by the CPSU. He said that this aid which has been given in difficult circumstances and at various stages has had positive effects on the continuation of the revolutionary experiment in the PDRY.

In his speech, Col 'Antar referred to the distinguished cooperation between the PDRY and the Soviet Union, based on common goals and the struggle against imperialism for putting an end to the arms race, for disarmament, and for peace, democracy, and social progress. He pointed out that the exchange of visits by parliamentary delegations of the two friendly countries has reached a splendid level which will serve the development of the people's councils in the two friendly countries and will contribute toward developing friendship and cooperation between them.

Comrade Ashimov paid tribute to the distinguished role of the PDRY Supreme People's Council in solving numerous social, political, and economic problems in the PDRY by issuing various laws. He said that laws on work and social security, eradication of illiteracy, and other issues will enhance revolutionary experiences and open new horizons for the development of the country. He also commended the role played by the Supreme People's Council in pursuing the peace-seeking foreign policy of the PDRY. Comrade Ashimov esteemed the PDRY stands toward Soviet proposals on preserving international security and peace, deterring the militarization of space, and eradicating nuclear weapons.

Comrade Ashimov referred to the U.S. role in endeavoring to create a military imbalance, achieve military superiority, and spread its hegemony over the world. He reviewed the Soviet developments achieved by the workers of the Soviet Union in the various economic, social, and educational fields. He said that last year's plan will undergo more development in various fields.

Briefs

Communications Official to Tunis — Jamal al-Habib, general director of the radio station, and 'Umar 'Abd al-'Aziz, general director of the television station, left for Tunis today to participate in the 12th session of the General Arab Association of Broadcasting Stations. [Summary] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Dec 84 GF*]

Delegation to PFLP Anniversary — The PDRY delegation, headed by Mahmud al-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and assistant secretary of the Central Committee, today left Aden for Damascus to participate in the 17th anniversary of the establishment of the PFLP. [Summary] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Dec 84 GF*]

New Somali Envoy — Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received at his office at the Presidium the credentials of 'Abd al-Salam 'Alam Adam 'Ali, new Somali envoy to the PDRY. [Excerpt] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 84 GF*]

YAR

Briefs

New Sudanese Envoy — 'Abbas al-Mu'tasim presented his credentials today to Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, as Sudan's ambassador to the YAR. [Summary] [*Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 84 GF*]

Geology Laboratory With FRG — The YAR and the FRG signed a protocol on extending the operation by the FRG of the geology laboratory, training of Yemeni cadres in the field of geological analyses, and providing new equipment for the laboratory. [Summary] [*Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 84 GF*]

AKHBAR AL-YAWM Criticizes Israel, Stand on PLO

PM131451 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 8 Dec 84 p 8

[Ibrahim Sa'dah "Political Situation" column: "Back-to-Front Logic"]

[Text] The Israeli Government's nerves tensed as it was following up the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Jordan and the contacts that followed between the two countries, most important of which were President Husni Mubarak's visit to Amman and King Husayn's visit to Cairo. Several statements, or rather warnings, ensued from the Israeli Government through its Foreign Minister Shamir. The least serious of these was that "Jordan and Egypt have to choose between peace and the PLO, since peace and the organization never meet. If Cairo and Amman choose peace, then they must abandon the PLO, and if they choose the PLO, then it means that they have abandoned the peace process."

As for Peres, he stood before the Knesset on 3 December and announced his country's rejection of any talks with the PLO, saying: "With regard to the Palestinians, we are prepared to negotiate with them by including some of them in the Jordanian delegation and on the condition that they have nothing to do with PLO terrorists."

This Israeli attitude is absolutely bound to undermine any attempts to hold local or international talks expected to lead to a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab side deals with the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Also, all Arab peace initiatives make the proviso that there can be no talks, negotiations, or contacts without the presence of the PLO. No one can speak on behalf of the Palestinian people in their absence, and only the PLO can negotiate on the Palestinian people's behalf. This is not the view of the Arabs alone, but of the whole world, with the exception of Israel and the United States.

What is strange is that the Israeli Government's statements and the Israeli media ridicule the Arabs' repeated talk these days about peace and a peaceful settlement. One of the most recent statements was heard in an Israeli radio commentary yesterday. It said that the Arabs have set up a peace festival "supermarket." Numerous peace initiatives have been attributed to the Arabs or to some world capital. The commentator then ridicules these initiatives saying: "Is it not funny that the Arabs are touring the five continents to peddle their initiatives, to urge world governments to support them, or to encourage them to put forward initiatives, while paying no attention to their neighbor Israel, when there is no point in initiatives, conferences, or talks in which Israel is not a partner or in which it is not acceptable?" The commentator then wonders: "Are the Arabs afraid to sit down, face to face, with Israel? Do the Arabs want the protection of the big, medium, and small powers when they are brought together with Israel at an international conference? Is it not better for the Arabs to begin their direct negotiations with Israel without the need for all these local and international conferences?"

It is not difficult to answer these Israeli questions and to pinpoint their contradictions. Israel is demanding direct and unconditional negotiations with the Arabs, and at the same time it makes it conditional that the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people should not be present at these negotiations. It is no secret to anyone in Israel that the Arabs support the Palestinians, but do not speak on their behalf or sign treaties and agreements in their absence. There is the PLO, whom the Palestinian people have chosen to represent them, speak on their behalf, and sign on their behalf. There can be no direct or indirect talks without the PLO, which Israel does not recognize and refuses to talk to.

The Arabs are not afraid to sit face to face with Israel. Egypt, the biggest Arab state, sat with Israel in direct, long, and exhausting negotiations that ended with the conclusion of the Camp David agreement. Under this agreement, Egypt regained its occupied territories under the first part of the agreement. As for the second part, which concerns the Palestinian people's rights, Israel did not respect it. The PLO and most of the Arab countries rejected this agreement — a rejection which King Husayn repeated in his speech to the Egyptian People's Assembly last week, when he referred to his country's rejection of the Camp David agreement because it achieved much more for Egypt than it proposed to achieve for the Palestinians and for Jordan. There is no objection to what King Husayn said, or to the Palestinian people's rejection of the treaty, because it is the Palestinians alone who have the right to determine their future. Likewise, it is the right of Syria to choose its way of restoring the land usurped from it following the 1967 and 1973 wars.

The responsibility of the Arabs -- all the Arabs — is confined to supporting the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Syrians in every individual or collective initiative, in every demand they put forward, and in every conference they call. The Arabs do not seek the protection of the big, medium, or small countries when they meet with Israel at a conference, as the Israeli commentary alleged. The Arabs believe in the justice of their cause, and believe more strongly that Israel does not want peace and will not agree to make concessions, despite its loud shouting that fills the world demanding alleged peace. So the only solution is for the Arabs to expose it before the whole world at an international conference.

Briefs

Cooperation Protocol With Netherlands — Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) — A technical cooperation protocol was signed today between Egypt and the Netherlands for the exchange of technical information and expertise in the spheres of reconstruction, land reclamation, and new societies. The protocol was signed for Egypt by Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction, new societies, and land reclamation; and for the Netherlands by visiting Secretary of State for Housing Dr Brok. [Excerpt] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 13 Dec 84 NC*]

Hasan 'Ali Receives Soviet AAPSO Delegation

JN131940 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, received Samandar Kalandarov, secretary of the Soviet AAPSO, and his delegation this evening. The two sides reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union. The director general of the Trade Ministry's department of economic relations with socialist countries and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Armed Forces Command Communique No 1,679

JN131727 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,679 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 13 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The valiant Iraqi Armed Forces, as they have always done and as the people and their leader have come to expect, are lying in wait for any criminal attempt by Khomeyni and his wicked gang. With the help of God and with the will of justice, all the defeated remnants they forcibly throw into the mill of death, inspired by greed, rancor, and the complex of failure in facing life, shall be destroyed. The Iraqi people's forces will continue to be able to destroy the aggressors in every position and at any time so that the source of evil will be uprooted and so that the covetous will be forced to yield to peace and recognize Iraq's sovereignty over its territory and its right to build life the way it chooses. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units fired on an enemy troop concentration and positions in the operational sector east of Basra, killing three, wounding others, destroying one infantry position and one observation post, burning and destroying one vehicle, and damaging two large vehicles.

2. Using artillery and other weapons, one of our forward units dealt violent blows to enemy positions and mortar and weapons emplacements opposite our positions in the central sector of the operational theater and managed to silence the mortar fire, destroy several weapons emplacements, and inflict large losses in men and equipment.

3. Yesterday evening the vile enemy shelled some civilian areas in Basra's suburbs with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 December 1984

King Husayn To Discuss Issues With Mitterrand

JN132008 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] An authoritative source at the Royal Court today announced that his majesty the king will meet with French President Francois Mitterrand tomorrow to discuss the Palestinian question, the current situation in the Middle East, as well as bilateral relations and joint cooperation between Jordan and France.

General Assembly Palestinian Resolution Viewed

JN131305 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Dec 84 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The United States and Israel Are Moving Against the Current"]

[Text] The UN General Assembly resolution that calls for establishing a Palestinian homeland on Palestinian territory and for holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East is significant and meaningful. This resolution comes at a time when the United Nations is witnessing the worst campaign to date — a campaign aimed at tarnishing its true representation of international will and the respect of its resolutions which express world public opinion.

The resolution affirms the world's increasing understanding of the just Palestinian cause and asserts the rights of the people — the rights that have been disavowed for a long time and against which all kinds of persecution and ignorance were practiced.

The cause of the Palestinian people and their rights is an issue that the United Nations has been following since the Palestinian issue began. The international organization has been living with this human tragedy, and has been affected by its dimensions, and has been issuing many decisions to this effect. The United Nations was not able to implement any of its resolutions due to the attempts of forces hostile to the peoples' will, truth, and justice and who try to undermine the United Nations' prestige and deprive it of its ability to impose its decisions, which express the international community's consensus and will.

Through its call for establishing the Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, the resolution asserted the legitimacy of the peoples' rights and a principle of international justice represented in rejecting the principle of occupying territories by force and expelling the owners of the land from their homeland by means of terrorism, extremism, and racism. The resolution also asserted the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their land and to live like other peoples — with dignity, freedom, and stability.

The call for holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East in which all parties to the conflict, including the Palestinians, will participate equally under the UN umbrella is an expression of international consensus. This consensus believes in the need to end the continued conflict in the region — a conflict whose dangers reach every part of the international arena and are a continuing threat to international security and stability.

It was not unusual for the United States and Israel to oppose the decision, because their stands on the issue of peace are known. Israel refuses to recognize the current Palestinian reality, it being the first enemy of the Palestinian people. The United States, with its policy and blatant bias toward Israel, has placed itself on the side of the enemy, disavowed all values, principles, and norms which it should protect, and has supported aggression, injustice, and racism against a people which Zionism is trying to liquidate by encroaching on their rights, territory, and existence.

U.S. subservience to Zionism and its running after the deceptive Israeli mirage has linked U.S. interests to Israel's ambitions and aggressive schemes. This stand turned the United States into a direct party to the Middle East conflict and gave it a suspect role which can only be understood through U.S. hostility toward Arab interests and rights and the attempt to achieve solutions unilaterally that only serve Israel. This U.S. stand falls within the framework of Zionist interests and anti-Arab objectives.

There should be a balance between rejection and acceptance. However, we cannot understand how the United States can stand at the side of Israel in the face of a decision supported by an overwhelming majority of the world. The U.S. is standing against the international current, peoples' interests, and the international community's will.

The Canadian opposition to the resolution is no more than part of its subservience and bias which must be faced with similar action by the Arab nation. Canada's interests in the Arab world are double its interests in the Zionist entity.

The new international decision will add to the international understanding of the Palestinian issue, and will produce more efforts to achieve peace in this region. At the same time, we are confident that the U.S.-Zionist attempts cannot survive in light of the international consensus which supports the issues of freedom, truth, and liberation in the world. Regardless of their pressure and their ability to ignore the facts, the United States and Israel cannot remain steadfast forever and move against the will of peoples, truth, and peace.

Further Praise for Resolution

JN131426 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Dec 84 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The International Community's Will and Conscience"]

[Text] The UN General Assembly's call last night for establishing an independent Palestinian state and convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East represents the international community's real will and conscience, especially since this decision won an overwhelming majority; only the U.S., Israeli, and Canadian representatives voted against it. Although we know the General Assembly's call will not affect the strong U.S. and Israeli opposition to the idea of convening an international peace conference, it constitutes clear evidence of the extent of international isolation facing those sides that reject the idea of the conference, which is considered the only available option for achieving a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The member-states of the General Assembly have noticed that the biased U.S. position against justice and peace is a factor in the continued tension in this part of the world, a fact that led the majority of these countries to express their regret about the U.S. position on an international conference. This is considered a censure of that permanent member of the Security Council for its positions against its most elementary international obligations. There is no doubt that this U.S. position against a just peace in the Middle East shows a real U.S. policy that is hostile to the peoples' rights and aspirations and confirms U.S. complicity in the policy of aggression and expansion that Israel is arrogantly exercising in the region.

U.S. UN representative Jeane Kirkpatrick's description of the General Assembly decision as flagrant interference in U.S. foreign policy shows the contradiction and fallacy that characterize U.S. officials' positions and statements regarding the Middle East crisis. These positions are a result of these officials' bias toward Israel and strange obedience to it. The General Assembly decision, which added a new international asset to the legitimate Palestinian rights, has paved the way for the Arab nation to achieve its legitimate aspirations if it unifies its ranks behind such important political accomplishments. However they will become mere ink on paper unless the Arabs achieve solidarity and give up the habit of creating peripheral differences.

Further Coverage of Israeli Operation in South

Amal Claims 5 Villages Raided

NC131511 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpts] In Beirut, the Amal movement has released the following information about the siege of several villages in southern Lebanon by the Israeli enemy forces:

The Israeli enemy forces besieged the villages of Ma'rakah, Burj Rahhal, Bidyas, Tura, Tayr Dibbah, and Yatir at dawn today, and then tried to storm them. The residents immediately gathered, blocked the roads, and confronted the occupation forces with sticks, stones, and boiling oil. They also set fire to tires. A number of residents were killed and wounded as a result of this confrontation; the number could not be determined precisely. It has been learned that the occupation forces replaced the UN forces in the posts along the Ma'rakah and Tayr Dibbah roads.

Mahmud Faqih, member of the Amal movement Political Bureau and the exiled organizational affairs official for Iqlim al-Kharrub, issued a statement in which he maintained that this attack on the five Jabal 'Amil villages constitutes a challenge to all international laws and humanitarian committees and organizations. The killing of civilian women and children, the use of poisonous gas bombs, and the arrest of wounded people in hospitals are taking place before the very eyes of these organizations, the statement said. The enemy is also trying to subdue the steadfast villages and to end all resistance that prevents him from making any security and political gains.

Such actions, the statement added, prove that the only solution is to step up and spread the resistance to, and confrontation of, the Israeli enemy in all villages. It is also necessary to display full solidarity with the besieged villages and to prevent the occupation forces from fulfilling their objectives.

Israel's Gazit on Talks, Operations

NC131252 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Report by NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent Antoine 'Awn from Al-Naqurah — live]

[Excerpt] Israeli spokesman Yona Gazit said that the Al-Naqurah negotiations were postponed because of bad weather, which prevented the Lebanese delegation from coming to the south.

Regarding military developments in Ma'rakah, Burj Rahhal, and other villages, Gazit said that the Israeli operation carried out this morning succeeded in its objectives by apprehending some extremists in the area. He added that there are large communal groups in the area which have tried to attack the Israeli forces, inflicting casualties and losses on them. The Israeli spokesman added: This compelled us to equip a special force experienced in fighting terrorism. The force detained many suspects for questioning. Gazit denied that the Israeli operation caused casualties among civilians. He said that one of the two persons killed in Ma'rakah was not the victim of the Israeli military operation, but was killed in a family feud. The woman was already found dead before the operation began.

Regarding the seige of the French force by Israeli forces, Gazit affirmed that relations between Israel and the UN forces are good and that he has no information about any incident. He noted that the Israelis tried to help the citizens by providing medical aid.

This was the most important thing said by Israeli spokesman Yona Gazit who was astonished by the exaggerated reports sent to Beirut.

Birri Calls for Strike

NC140654 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of justice and hydroelectric resources and minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, stated that the tour Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, aims at ensuring the two Israeli demands raised during the Al-Naqurah talks — the deployment of UN forces north of Al-Zahrani and in the area between Al-Litani and Al-Zahrani Rivers, and that the area south of Al-Litani should be under Lahd's forces.

Minister Birri said: Israel is carrying out actions in the south reminiscent of the Nazis, Nero, and Zionism. The Israelis are now desperate because of the Lebanese stand, which is becoming increasingly united, and the Lebanese national resistance strikes and the southerners' mutiny.

He added: Therefore, I urge our steadfast and patient people in the south, west Al-Biqa', and Rashayya to teach the Israelis a new lesson. I urge my people there to stage a sit-in today in mosques, clubs, churches, and in all other places in the south, west Al-Biqa', and Rashayya to denounce this new crime committed by Israel; to declare a general strike throughout the south on Saturday to protest the Israeli practices; to appeal to international organizations, the United Nations, the Red Cross, and the human rights committee to act immediately to stop Israeli oppression and obstinacy.

WAKH Reports Army Officer Killed by Mosad Agents

GF140823 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Beirut, 14 Dec (WAKH) -- Colonel Mahmud Abu Rabi'ah, commander of the battalion responsible for the Central Sector from the 6th Brigade in the Lebanese Army, was killed when unknown [assailants] fired at him. It has been learned that his escort was seriously wounded and that the driver of the jeep they were in was also wounded.

Col Abu Rabi'ah was about to leave his house when a car headed toward them and gunmen in it fired at him and his escorts with automatic machine guns. The jeep driver returned fire at the gunmen, who ran away. Abu Rabi'ah's escort was taken to a

hospital near the Al-Hamra' street, where the incident took place behind the (?your studio) pharmacy.

The WAKH correspondent in Beirut has learned from security sources that the gunmen are agents for the Isareli Mosad. The sources said the agents intend to detonate the security situation in Beirut. All roads leading to Al-Hamra' Street have been blocked and the Lebanese Army has cordoned off the area.

Birri's Visit to Damascus Aborted by Weather

NC131822 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Inclement weather has prevented Nabih Birri, Minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, from leaving for Damascus today to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Instead, he held a telephone conversation with Mr Khaddam at noon today, in which he informed the vice president about the serious developments in the south as a result of the massacre that Israel perpetrated in the Tyre District's villages at dawn today. They also discussed other developments, particularly with regard to the (?security plan).

Hamadah Contacts Walid Junblatt in Damascus

NC131315 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Marwan Hamadah has contacted Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, who is presently in Damascus. Junblatt had earlier met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Hamadah conveyed to Junblatt the result of the contacts currently taking place in Beirut on more than one level.

At noon today Hamadah received the Yugoslav ambassador to Lebanon and reviewed with him a number of regional and international issues.

PSP Source on Verdun Explosion Near Druze Building

NC131436 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Commenting on the Verdun explosion, which was aimed at the Druze community building in Beirut, where the tongue of the Phalangist information media slipped while describing its implications, a Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] official source has made the following statement:

We have received the message and the signature was clear through the very clear imprints of the numerous media — the media of the Qassis and Shahwan families.

The Qassis and Shahwan families, and their masters, should know that the Druze community is today a closely-knit bloc with a single leadership and goals. This community has for a long time transcended sensitivities and narrow mentality; Yazbakism and Junblattism have become memories of the past which will not return.

The reply of all of us to your explosive messages will be further adherence to the land, further steadfastness, and further sacrifices for the sake of building a national, democratic, and Arab Lebanon. We shall frustrate the solidity of the mountain and all your partitionist conspiracies.

The official PSP source concluded by saying: The Druze community, which has become united and has rallied round the PSP to confront fascism in the mountain and the hegemony in Lebanon, will remain a sword for Arabish and Islam, and is far bigger than any attempt at fragmentation. Let the leaders of the media and their masters know that the hour of punishment is definitely coming when repentance will be of no avail.

VOL on PSP, Pro-'Arafat Officials' Meeting

NC131253 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Security reports indicate that a meeting between a pro-'Arafat Palestinian official, called Abu Adham, and Anwar al-Fatayri, Progressive Socialist Party official, took place at Al-Mukhtarah at 1000 today. This meeting, the reports add, falls within the ongoing Socialist-Palestinian military coordination in West Beirut.

ANSA: Nabih Birri Criticizes Italian Police

AU131930 Rome ANSA in English 1930 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] (ANSA) Beirut, December 13 — Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Birri, who is also head of the Shi'ite "Amal" armed movement, today voiced criticism of the way Italian police handled the foiled attack on the U.S. Embassy in Rome last month. "Italian police presented the seven Lebanese arrested in Rome as guilty before they have been tried. They were described as terrorists who were preparing an attack against the American Embassy, but we have different information.

"We respect the Italian magistrature and we have faith in its verdict. But we urge a speedy and impartial inquiry. We ask that justice be carried out as soon as possible because the future of these youths is at stake", Birri told ANSA.

The minister said there is evidence that Husayn Atat, the Lebanese national whose arrest in Zurich led to the arrest of the other seven Lebanese in Rome, was preparing an attack in Italy, "but not against the American Embassy". Birri added that he has gathered information showing that the other seven are innocent.

Relatives and friends of the suspects held in Italy today staged a demonstration in front of the Italian Embassy in Beirut. The ambassador received a delegation of the protestors.

Q. What information do you have concerning the suspects under arrest?

A. "I made inquiries. I spoke with their relatives and with their Lebanese fellow students in Italy. These youths did not leave Lebanon to place bombs. They had been studying in Rome for years. The only link with Husayn Atat, the man caught with

explosives in his possession in Switzerland, is this: Atat by chance bought a tie in a Beirut clothing store owned by the parents of Muhammad Fahs, one of the seven arrested.

"When he learned that (Atat) was going to Switzerland and Italy, Fahs' father gave him a cassette on which he had recorded a message for his son. Fahs' address in Italy was written on the cassette. Police tracked him down and arrested him with his six roomates".

Q. What do you know about the man arrested in Zurich?

A. The seven arrested in Italy do not know him, they have never seen him. I know from my sources that the explosives found in his baggage was destined for a target in Italy, but not the American Embassy.

Q. What do you think of the threats against Italians in Lebanon?

A. "Naturally Italians in Beirut are afraid. As minister and head of "Amal" I am ready to do everything to help them, to oversee their safety. I have not forgotten the help the Italian contingent in the Multinational Force gave my people.

Damascus Reports Israeli Operation in S. Lebanon

JN131153 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon — Within the framework of their criminal practices, the Israeli forces committed a massacre this morning against the innocent Lebanese citizens in Ma'rakah, Burj, Bidyas, and Tura. Reports from southern Lebanon confirm that the Zionist forces stormed these villages and fired at the citizens killing and wounding many. The Zionist forces are still surrounding these villages and have prevented UNIFIL from entering them.

Ba'th Party Central Committee Statement

JN131510 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 13 Dec 84

["Text" of statement issued by Syrian Ba'th Party Central Committee on 13 December]

[Text] The Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria held its eighth session under the chairmanship of comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the Republic, 10-12 December 1984. At the beginning of its first meeting, the committee listened to a general guidance speech by the comrade secretary general of the party in which he stressed that Syria has succeeded in maintaining its clear vision amid the succession of events. He also stressed the importance of Syria's steadfastness as well as the importance of keeping Syria as a beacon that illuminates the road for the nation's masses, and as a shield of increasing power and solidity, behind which the nation's masses find shelter and support while struggling to attain their full rights. In his directive speech, the president also called for marching with our people and nation along the road we have determined for ourselves, asserting that Syria neither changes nor fluctuates, because it is a Syria of principles, where there is no room for opportunists, the timid, and capitulationists.

During its meetings the Central Committee reviewed the stage between the seventh and eighth regional congresses and developments which took place during this stage in all fields, and concluded sound results from them. The committee highly valued the role of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, under the leadership of comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, during the past stage. It also highly valued this leadership's assumption of the responsibilities entrusted to it.

The committee became acquainted with the results of the party elections to the eighth regional congress and with the recommendations made by the party branches. It expressed its satisfaction with the democratic spirit and with the spirit of party discipline and commitment the Ba'thist comrades enjoyed in various party branches. It highly appreciated these elections, which entrenched the party's traditions, norms, and principles.

The Central Committee discussed the Regional Command's reports on organizational, political, and economic affairs related to its work at the stage that followed the seventh regional congress, and adopted recommendations that will be presented to the eighth regional congress.

The committee reviewed work in the organizational field and expressed satisfaction with the organizational situation of the party and popular organizations. It adopted several recommendations in this regard with the aim of bolstering the party's militant march, comprehending its organizational development, consolidating its class structure, and promoting the party's cohesion with the masses.

The Central Committee highly appreciated the effective role of the party and its popular organizations, and the people's masses under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, toward steadfastness and confrontation of plotting and plotters against Syria and the Arab cause.

In the economic field, the committee reviewed the major accomplishments achieved during past years in the fields of development, production, and services. It also reviewed difficulties, negative aspects, and gaps which surfaced during the process of developing economy and services, and adopted several recommendations aimed at bolstering the economic base, developing and increasing production, accelerating agricultural mechanization, providing the requisites of modern agriculture, reclaiming land, accelerating the process of utilizing water power, dealing with surfacing difficulties and gaps, and removing negative aspects for the sake of bolstering Syria's intrinsic ability, backing its steadfastness in the face of the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary schemes, continuing the development process, achieving progress, and improving the level of services.

The committee also adopted recommendations on how to deal with the people's affairs.

In the political field, the Central Committee reviewed developments that followed the party's seventh regional congress on both the Arab and international levels, and discussed all aspects of these developments. It especially concentrated on the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught aimed against the present and future of the Arabs and at subjugating the Arab region to U.S. and Zionist hegemony.

The committee reviewed developments in the principal Arab issue — the Arab-Israeli conflict — and success in destroying the agent conspiracy within spearheaded by the Muslim Brotherhood gang. It also reviewed the Israeli invasion of fraternal Lebanon and the U.S.-NATO military intervention that followed this invasion.

The Central Committee hailed Syria's firm, principled stand, under comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, in confronting this invasion and this intervention. It also hailed Syria's success in foiling the Israeli invasion's objectives and U.S. and NATO intervention, as well as its support for fraternal Lebanon, which helped to abrogate the 17 May agreement and provided it with the means to pursue the national accord march, preserve the unity of Lebanon's territory and people, and liberate Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation.

The Central Committee hailed our militant Lebanese people, their nationalist and progressive forces, and the Lebanese nationalist resistance, which is valiantly confronting the Israeli occupiers. It also hailed the Arab and all world liberation and progressive forces.

It praised Syria's firm, decisive confrontation, under comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, of the Camp David course and its branches, and the capitulationists' defeatist trends that have appeared in the Arab arena. It emphasized in this regard the heroic role of Syria, the Syrian people, and their ideological Army, the backbone of the Arab liberation struggle.

The Central Committee condemned the Amman devisionist Council, convened to give a false legitimacy to the defeatist, bargaining, and capitulationist course in the Palestinian arena and to the collusion among the Camp David regime in Egypt, the Jordanian regime, the deviant, capitulationist Palestinian clique, and the agent, fascist Iraqi regime. The Central Committee hailed the stands of the Palestinian factions, figures, and masses which confront the defeatist, capitulationist trends, adhere to the Palestinian revolution's principles, and are determined to reject all capitulationist, liquidatory designs, and to continue the struggle until the Palestinian people's national rights are attained, the foremost of these being their right to the revolution, their right to return, their right to self-determination, and their right to establish their independent, national state on their soil.

The Central Committee affirmed the policy of promoting and developing relations and cooperation between Syria and the socialist bloc countries, foremost of which is the USSR. It expressed satisfaction with the development of these relations.

The Central Committee approved a number of recommendations which reinforce Syria's national and pan-Arab political course.

It discussed the internal situation and approved a number of recommendations to reinforce the internal front, develop the national progressive front, and deepen the progressive socialist course.

The Central Committee decided to call the party's eight regional congress into session in the coming days.

The Central Committee expressed its appreciation and pride in the wise and courageous leadership of comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party, president of the Republic, and leader of the pan-Arab march toward unity, freedom, and socialism.

Egypt Agrees to Tabah Talks in Beersheba, Ismailia

TA131827 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] There has been a breakthrough in Egypt's position on the Tabah conflict: Egypt has agreed to hold the Tabah talks in Beersheba and Ismailia. This was told to our correspondent Yisra'el Segal by Foreign Ministry sources. Until now, Egypt has demanded that the talks be held in a neutral place and has suggested either Rome or Paris. However, in the talk between Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Israeli Ambassador in Egypt Moshe Sason it transpired that the Egyptian prime minister is interested in solving the Tabah conflict quickly. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the talks should not be foiled by insisting on minor details, and as said, he agreed to discuss the Tabah issue in Beersheba and Ismailia, alternately. The Egyptian prime minister also said that in the near future a top level Egyptian delegate will arrive in Israel.

Egypt To Demand Direct Talks With Jordan, PLO

TA140952 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Dec 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Senior U.S. officials this week told Israeli diplomats in Cairo that it is their assessment that an Egyptian envoy would arrive in Jerusalem with a plan whose keynote will be a demand to open direct negotiations between Israel and an Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

According to this assessment, the arrival of the envoy is being held up because of the ongoing preparations regarding the formulation of this plan. From talks held by Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sason with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, it transpires that Egypt is willing to work toward improving relations with Israel. However, it seems that it will not take any practical measures in this direction until it has formed a united front with King Husayn and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Peres: Al-Naqurah Talks Not Being Dragged Out

TA131737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the Al-Naqurah talks are not being dragged out; rather, there are only differences of opinion. In the course of a tour of Haifa, Mr Peres emphasized that for the moment there is no target date for departure from Lebanon.

[Begin recording][Correspondent Haviva Roger] The prime minister said: There is no foot-dragging in the Al-Naqurah talks, nor is there a target date for departure from Lebanon. He again denied having met King Husayn in Paris, but refused to comment on the exchange of messages with the monarch.

Mr Peres also addressed the possibility of a meeting with President Mubarak:

[Peres] I suggested to President Mubarak that we hold a meeting near the Israeli-Egyptian border. The answer I received was that he was not immediately ruling out such a possibility. He only suggested that such a meeting be prepared properly. Now we are trying to find out what is meant by a properly prepared meeting so that it will succeed. [end recording]

Gilbo'a: IDF Action May Have Caused Delay in Talks

TA131529 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The 10th round of the Al-Naqurah talks did not take place today because of poor weather conditions. The head of the Israeli delegation, Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, did not rule out the possibility that there was another reason why the Lebanese did not come. Our correspondent Nitzan Horowitz reports on this from Al-Naqurah:

The Israeli delegation waited until 1300 for the Lebanese delegation to arrive in Al-Naqurah. The helicopters that were expected to bring the Lebanese from Beirut could not take off because of the strong winds and the weather conditions in southern Lebanon. Israeli delegation head Brig Gen 'Amos Gilbo'a said:

[Begin recording] The Lebanese announced — and I happened to hear this, as I was in the room with Callaghan — that they could not come because of the poor weather conditions. Whether or not there were other reasons behind their not arriving, such as our forces' activity, I simply do not know. Perhaps. Meanwhile, I have been told that the Lebanese press maintains that the reason is our forces' activity. There is no telling what the real truth is. [end recording]

The Israeli delegation is preparing for the recess in the talks for Christmas and the beginning of the new year. It is believed that the recess will last approximately 2 and 1/2 weeks, during which time the Israeli position may change.

[Begin Gilbo'a recording] First of all, the break is an appropriate and propitious time simply to carry out a reassessment of the situation. [end recording]

No Breakthrough Seen in Rabin-Murphy Talks

TA131437 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1425 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy ended his meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a short while ago. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche, Minister Moshe Arens, and Chief of Staff Moshe Levi.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that no breakthrough was achieved in the talks:

Not only was there no breakthrough in the talks, but there was no movement on the deployment of UNIFIL, the army of southern Lebanon, and Lebanese Army units in the areas that will be evacuated by the IDF. Richard Murphy reported on his

talks in Damascus and Beirut. As will be recalled, the parties requested a recess in the talks for Christmas. By then Israel hopes to have a complete picture of the progress Murphy has achieved in talks with the Syrians and the Lebanese; it then hopes to redeploy and state its positions. [sentence as heard]

Murphy leaves Israel for Jordan and Egypt, and will return to Israel next week.

Delay of Peres, Shamir Visit to Italy Confirmed

TA131728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Rome has confirmed that the visit by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Italy has been postponed until a later date. The visit was scheduled for mid-January. The embassy statement said that the prime minister is grateful for the invitation, but wishes to inform the Italian prime minister that he will not be able to come in January. An announcement on the new date will be issued later. It was reported that the postponement of the visit comes in reaction to a meeting held by the Italian prime minister with Yasir 'Arafat a week ago in Tunis.

Craxi Office: Peres Will Visit

AU131950 Rome ANSA in English 1940 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 13 — Contrary to reports circulating in Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will make an official visit to Rome at a date yet to be set. The office of Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi issued a statement today saying that it had been informed by the Israeli Embassy that "Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is happy to accept the invitation extended to him by Prime Minister Bettino Craxi to make an official visit to Italy.

"The date of the visit will be set through normal diplomatic channels.... In the next few days an important Israeli delegation headed by the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry will be in Rome for political consultations.

"It is likely", the statement concluded, "that the issues of the Mideast situation that will be the focus of Peres' talks in Rome will be reviewed on this occasion".

This morning, Radio Jerusalem announced that Peres had postponed his visit to Rome in apparent protest over Craxi's recent encounter in Tunis with Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Husayn Said Furious Over Leaks on Peres Messages

TA140815 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Dec 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] According to U.S. sources, King Husayn is furious about the leaks originating in Israel regarding the messages he has recently exchanged with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

These sources add that in recent meetings with U.S. and European personalities who brought him verbal messages from Peres, the king cautioned Israel that if it continues to embarrass him with these leaks, he would be compelled to put an end to the contacts.

The *DAVAR* correspondent has learned that from the moment Shim'on Peres assumed the post of prime minister 3 months ago, he continued the contacts with Husayn which he had begun during his years as the leader of the opposition.

The letters and messages were relayed to Amman by U.S. and European personalities who conferred with both Peres and Husayn.

The last message from Husayn to Peres arrived on the eve of the PNC session approximately 3 weeks ago. In that message, the king announced his intention to address the PNC session and to voice his willingness to sign a peace treaty with Israel in exchange for the return of the territories.

King Husayn will have an audience with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace today. In this surprising meeting, Husayn will be briefed about the talks President Mitterrand conducted with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres last week.

Concern About Katyushas Conveyed to Jordan

TA140802 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Dec 84 pp 1, 11

[Refa'el Mann, Tamar Golan, and Shefi Gabay report]

[Excerpt] Israel has recently conveyed a message to the Jordanian Government in which it expresses concern at the recurrence of incidents in which Katyusha rockets have been fired at Israel by terrorists from Jordanian territory.

According to knowledgeable sources, the message — conveyed by a third party — was formulated in a "moderate manner" since Israel is aware of the measures the Jordanian Army has adopted to prevent terrorists from settling close to the border.

Israel has also conveyed to Jordan its concern about the transfer of the PLO military headquarters to Amman and about reports that this headquarters now oversees attempts to attack Israelis in Judaea, Samaria, and Lebanon.

The messages on the above-mentioned issues are only part of the series of messages exchanged between Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office and Jordanian King Husayn's palace since the establishment of the national unity government.

Sources in Jerusalem emphasize that the main achievement of the intensive, indirect contacts with Jordan lies in the very fact that a channel of communication has reopened with that country. As for the substance of the positions expressed by Jordan, it has been learned that the king has for the most part reiterated his public positions.

Moda'i: U.S. Not Involved in Reactor Purchase

TA131517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1445 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i says that the United States is not a party to the purchase of nuclear reactors from France. Minister Moda'i said to our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum that it is possible that some unqualified person, speaking in the name of the United States, expressed the opinion that Israel should not take upon itself such heavy obligations. According to him, however, the issue will be decided according to economic considerations, and not according to advice offered by various individuals.

Negotiations on Purchase of French Reactor Parts

TA141056 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] Israel is conducting negotiations with France about the purchase of vital parts for a nuclear reactor. The *DAVAR* correspondent has learned that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres held contacts to this effect during his recent visit in Paris.

This project is being promoted by businessmen Sha'ul Eisenberg, Al Schwimmer, and Ya'aqov Nimrodi. In order to build the infrastructure for a nuclear reactor, the entrepreneurs need powerful electrical turbines which they would like to purchase under convenient credit terms from the French national "Framatom" company. It should be pointed out that the negotiations for the purchase of the nuclear reactors are also being conducted with this company.

IDF, Lahd Army in South Lebanon Operations

Tyre Area Detentions

TA131628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The IDF and army of southern Lebanese forces imposed a curfew today on some Shi'ite villages in the vicinity of Tyre. It was reported that 14 people have been detained on suspicion of carrying out and planning attacks. The UN spokesman in southern Lebanon reported that 2 local residents were killed and 14 others were wounded. After an investigation, however, it transpired that the two — who are residents of the village of Tura — were killed during a family fight.

Regarding the curfew, our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that a large IDF force, including tanks, armored personnel carriers, infantry and backup forces, this morning entered the area from all directions in order to detain persons suspected of hostile activity.

The villages in which the operation was conducted were Burj Rahhal; Bidyas, which is northeast of Tyre; Tura, and Ma'rakah, which is east of Tyre. Our correspondent notes that the village of Ma'rakah is especially hostile toward Israel, and terrorists leave from there to carry out attacks.

Curfew on Villages Lifted

TA131710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] This evening the IDF lifted the curfew imposed on the Shi'ite villages in which it apprehended 14 persons suspected of planning and carrying out terrorist acts. Beefed-up IDF and army of southern Lebanon units still remain there, however.

UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that three bodies — a man, woman, and a 14-year old girlfrom the village of Tura — and five wounded were brought to the French UNIFIL contingent's headquarters today.

30 Suspects Detained

TA131753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1728 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The IDF spokesman has made the following announcement: The security forces in southern Lebanon today detained some 30 suspected terrorists, and several dozen more were detained for interrogation. Among the suspects is a unit of six terrorists who were caught with their weapons. Military sources told our correspondent that stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, as well as propaganda material were uncovered in a few villages.

IDF Kills 2; Villages Tense

TA140612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Israeli troops in south Lebanon yesterday shot and killed a known terrorist during the search of Shi'ite villages. One local girl was killed by Israeli soldiers during the operation. More from reporter Shim'on Feinberg:

The terrorist shot while trying to escape was one of three people killed during the operation. The second was a local girl killed by Israeli fire. The exact circumstances were not disclosed. The third was a local woman whose death, Israeli officials say, was totally unrelated to the raids of the five villages, and was apparently killed after a family feud. All three bodies were turned over to UNIFIL. Seven others were wounded.

Scores of people were rounded up in the operation. Some were soon released; others are to be held for further interrogation. The detainees included a terrorist band consisting of six members who were caught with their weapons. Israeli soldiers also rounded up large quantities of arms and ammunition: 15 Kalashnikovs and 3 M-16 rifles, 4 RPG rocket launchers, machine guns, grenades, and explosives, together with propaganda material.

The situation in the villages is now described as tense, with Israeli and south Lebanese army units still patrolling the area. Israeli officers also met with local Shi'ite leaders and warned them that Israel would not prevent [as heard] the reorganization of terrorist cells in the south. In Beirut, Shi'ite leader and minister for south Lebanon Nabih Birri accused Israel of a massacre and called for a popular uprising.

IDF Warns Shi'ite Leaders

TA140637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] IDF officers talked with Shi'ite leaders in southern Lebanon and warned them that the IDF will continue to prevent the organization of terrorist cells in the area even after the redeployment of our forces. They made it clear to the Shi'ites that Israel is looking for a way to cooperate with them. To show its goodwill, next week the IDF will allow the opening of a sea passage from Tyre to Beirut which will make it easier for citrus farmers to transport their crops to the north.

2 Further Attacks Noted

TA140940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0922 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Our forces sustained no casualties in two attempted attacks today against the IDF in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that automatic weapons fire was directed from an ambush at an IDF convoy traveling in the Al-Zahrani area. The fire missed the convoy and hit a local resident, who sustained injuries. Automatic weapons fire was directed at a roadblock manned by the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] on the outskirts of the village of 'Aramta. ASL soldiers returned the fire and began searching the area.

Lahd Doubts Lebanese Army Can Control Al-Kharrub

TA131457 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The commander of the army of southern Lebanon, General Antoine Lahd, said this afternoon that in his opinion the Lebanese Army will not be able to control the Al-Kharrub area, where the exchanges of fire between Christians and Druze have resumed. Speaking to our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, Lahd said that his soldiers will soon undertake additional duties in southern Lebanon.

19.5 Percent Increase in November Price Index

TA141241 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Last month's Consumer Price Index rose by 19.5 percent. The Central Bureau of Statistics has reported that all consumer groups have registered an increase, particularly that of clothing and footwear. Food prices rose by 18.5 percent, and those of fruit and vegetables by 24 percent. The cost-of-living increment will stand at 10.5 percent.

During the first 11 months of the year, the Consumer Price Index grew by 425 percent, and over the last 12 months by 485 percent.

Our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik notes that the increase in the index was higher than the forecasts of the last few days, but is still a bit lower than the forecasts made on the eve of the signing of the package deal. It results in part from the price increases which preceded the package deal, and in part from the charging of the maximum prices approved at the beginning of the deal.

The Central Bureau of Statistics emphasized that on the whole the price freeze has been observed, and that in most cases the prices quoted were lower than the approved maximum.

The December index already includes an increase of approximately 4 percent. The consumption basket for an average family currently stands at 381,000 shekels per month.

The Treasury was satisfied with the statistics on the index increase, and an announcement issued by the Finance Ministry says that there is a relative lull in inflation which will be manifest in coming indexes.

The Treasury hopes that the Cabinet will now understand the need to lower the budget, so that the drop in inflation will not be a passing phenomenon.

Further Reportage on Franco-African Summit

'New Twist' in French Policy

AB132230 Paris AFP in French 1716 GMT 13 Dec 84

[By AFP Special correspondents Bernard Loth and Pierre Favier]

[Text] Bangui, 13 Dec (AFP) — Henceforth, France backs national reconciliation in Chad in order to avoid a factual partition of the country, which can only be facilitated by the persistent presence of Libyan troops in the north. This is the new twist in French policy following President Francois Mitterrand's 6-day visit to Africa, which ended this evening in Bangui after visiting Zaire; Rwanda; and Burundi, where he attended the 11th Franco-African summit.

The economy and natural disasters — especially the drought, which has caused great famines — were also at the center of the detailed discussions that the French president held with his African counterparts. Mr Mitterrand tried his best to remove the question marks, doubts, and fears expressed by some Africans concerning French policy on Libya within the framework of the Chadian conflict.

In fact, Tripoli maintains its troops in northern Chad in violation of the 16 September 1984 French-Libyan disengagement agreement, while the French forces of the Manta Operation, which were sent to Chad in August 1983 at the request of President Habre, have been withdrawn or sent to the CAR, which shares a 900 km border with Chad.

France is of the view that the Libyan soldiers are "in a defensive position, less numerous, and less armed" than before and that the French troops in the CAR (about 2,000 men) can be deployed within a few hours for a new intervention in Chad. The French president assured his counterparts several times that France strongly rejected any idea of a partition of Chad and that the objective remains the total withdrawal of al-Qadhdhafi's troops.

"Persuasion" and "discussion" are the two means that France continues to put forward so that a military clash is not contemplated as the last resort. But, according to the French head of state, the solution to the Chadian conflict must necessarily be subjected to a national reconciliation; however, to reach an agreement. It is believed in Paris, this political solution requires the consent and the commitment of the Chadians, and first of all by President Hissein Habre himself.

This view is shared by several African presidents. In Kinshasa, Marshal Mobutu was recently of the view that a military victory in Chad "would only bring about bitterness and a desire for revenge."

President Omar Bongo was of the view that the "key to the Chadian conflict" lay in the hands of Hissein Habre, who has to form a national union government, the only thing capable of stopping the hostilities.

Niger President Seyni Kountche, who is currently in the United States and who is to meet President Mitterrand in Paris, called on France not to withdraw from Chad but to "work with the countries of the subregion for a reconciliation between Chadians."

Before leaving Bujumbura yesterday, and while French Jaguar planes were flying over Chad on a reconnaisance mission, President Hissein Habre stated that Chadian and French opinions bore a certain resemblance and were not "completely dissimilar to one another."

Yet, he went on, it was understandable that France should have its own opinion about Libya. He nonetheless believed that it was legitimate for Chadians to have their own opinion since they were the ones who were "attacked by Libya." For the Chadian head of state, the Franco-African summit was "a success" because, according to him, it enabled them to tackle the real problems of the drought, indebtedness, as well as the "Libyan aggression" in Chad.

For his part, and beyond the Chadian problem, Mr Mitterrand assured his counterparts that [words indistinct] do "anything in Africa" but that the defense agreements will be "fully and immediately respected." It is the how and why of this French policy in Africa, and especially in Chad, that Mr Mitterrand will have to defend on French television on Sunday.

Support for Angola Expressed

MB140837 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The heads of state of several African nations have expressed in Bujumbura their support for the Angolan proposals for the peaceful solution of the problems in southern Africa. This support was affirmed in meetings between Ismael Martins, Angolan minister of foreign trade, and Presidents Moussa Traoore of Mali; Abou Diouf of Senegal; Omar Bongo of Gabon; Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo; and the foreign affairs ministers of Ivory Coast and Egypt.

The Angolan minister and officials he met have attended the 11th Franco-African summit in Bujumbura, which brought together officials of the French-speaking African countries and French President Francois Mitterrand. Other non-French speaking countries such as Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe and Angola attended the summit as observers.

ALGERIA

Briefs

Transport Links With Syria — Transport Minister Saleh Goudjil has just ended a special visit to Damascus. Cooperation with Syria will be increased in the transport field in three areas: in the air transport field, which will be stepped up by assuming the maintenance of the planes of Syrian Air at the facilities of Air Algerie, and through the retraining of Syrian pilots in Algeria; rail transport, where the two parties examined the possibilities for cooperation in ship fittings and infrastructures; and in marine transport, for which the two ministers [as heard] agreed to shortly conclude an agreement which will permit a regular sea link to be set up between Algerian and Syrian ports. After departing Syria, Saleh Goudjil left by plane for Kuwait, where he arrived this afternoon for a working visit that will last several days. [Text] [*Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 7 Dec 84 LD*]

MAURITANIA

Further Reportage on Ouster of Haydala

Haydala Taken to Military Camp

AB140825 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0630 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] After being overthrown while in Bujumbura, Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala has decided to dismiss the idea of going into exile. The former Mauritanian head of state returned to Nouakchott yesterday afternoon following stopovers in Brazzaville and Abidjan.

According to reliable sources in the Mauritanian capital, he was taken immediately to a military camp where he is most likely to be put under house arrest. So far, however, the new authorities have said nothing concerning his fate.

For the time being, Ould Taya's government still seems concerned about Mauritania's neighbors. While Libya did not hesitate to recognize the new regime, Morocco, Algeria, and Senegal are still waiting for a better understanding of the situation before expressing their positions.

Land, Air Borders Reopened

AB141030 Dakar PANA in French 1015 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Dakar, 14 Dec (PANA) — The new Mauritanian authorities this morning announced the reopening of the land and air borders of the country closed since Wednesday in the wake of the takeover by Colonel Maaouyia Ould Taya, Nouakchott's new strongman, according to the national radio monitored in Dakar. The situation remains calm in the Mauritanian capital 48 hours after the report of the overthrow of President Haydala.

New Government Reported

AB131619 Paris AFP in French 1549 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Dakar, 13 Dec (AFP) — Radio Nouakchott monitored in Dakar announced the composition of the new Mauritanian Government formed just after the coup d'etat by Colonel Maaouya Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya as follows:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Major Cheik Sid 'Ahmed Ould Babamine (former permanent secretary of the CMSN)
Minister of Interior
Lt Col Djibril Ould Abdallah (former minister of equipment)
Minister of Justice
Lt Col Ahmed Ould Minnih (former minister of foreign affairs),**Minister of Finance**
Lt Col Anne Amadou Babaly
Minister of Planning and Territorial Development
Tarkhit Ould Sidi
Minister of Fisheries
Isselmou Ould Baba
Minister of Mines and Industries
Major Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Deh (former minister of health)
Minister of Equipment and Transport
Capt Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane (former minister of fisheries)
Minister of National Education
Hasni Ould Didi (unchanged)
Minister of Civil Service
Camara Ali Gueladio
Minister of Water Supply
Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah (unchanged)
Minister of Rural Development
Messmoud Ould Belkair
Minister of Public Health
Djibo Tafsirou
Minister of Information and Telecommunications
Ahmed Ould Ghnahallah (former deputy minister of foreign affairs)
Minister of Youth and Sports
Mahmoud Ba (unchanged)
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Abd el Kader Ould Diddih

Deputy Minister of Interior
N'Gam Lirwane (unchanged)

CMSN on Government Reorganization

AB132050 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The Military Committee of National Salvation met today under the chairmanship of Colonel Maayouia Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state. After this meeting, the military committee issued the following statement on the organization that took place on 12 December, that is, yesterday.

After analysis of the current situation and in order to face the serious internal situation, the CMSN has decided to reorganize itself. In fact, in spite of the persistent and devastating drought, the deposed president established a system of government based on waste, corruption, and personal power. The fishing policy, though clearly defined by the CMSN, was altered to serve the interests of certain individuals to the detriment of the nation's interests. Unemployment, poor management of state resources and property, in addition to the world economic crisis helped to block the state machinery.

The main task of the CMSN is to introduce some sanity into the management of public property, restore the credibility of the state establish greater social justice, and enhance respect for the institutions, laws, and rules of the country. To meet this challenge, the CMSN calls on all Mauritanian citizens to increase their efforts and to participate seriously and rigorously in the joint struggle for national development.

The mass education structures, which all Mauritanians unreservedly adopted, nearly became organs for a personality cult. In this sphere, the CMSN confirms its attachment to this mass organization whose educational, economic, social, and cultural task needs to be developed.

Internationally, the CMSN respects all the commitments of the state and renews its attachment to the international, regional, and subregional organizations to which Mauritania belongs. The CMSN supports the struggle for liberation and independence of Arab Palestine and firmly condemns Zionism and the odious apartheid system of South Africa.

On the regional and subregional level, the CMSN will strive to strengthen cooperation and understanding between neighboring and fraternal countries. The building of the Arab Maghreb remains an important objective for the CMSN. The brotherhood and harmony treaties signed between our country and the sister Republics of Algeria and Tunisia constitute an appropriate path towards the building of this Maghreb, which our people so much desire.

On the Western Saharan problem, Mauritania recognizes the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, and hopes that a negotiated solution to the problem will be found in order to restore the peace and harmony the subregion so desparately needs.

Finally, the CMSN took the following separate measures: Colonel Cheikh Ould Boyda, permanent secretary of the CMSN; Captain Diop Djibril Mamadou, deputy permanent secretary of the CMSN. [sentence as heard]

Employers Union Supports 'Reorganization'

LD132217 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Dec 84

["Cable of Support" from the Mauritanian General Union of Employers to the CMSN — read by announcer]

[Text] Our organization has followed with interest the news concerning the reorganization the CMSN carried out on 12 December 1984. The justification for this rectification and the calm circumstances and unanimity that accompanied it as well as its objectives have greatly drawn our interest.

The operation aims at protecting our country's interest through the restoration of its credibility internally and externally and enabling our CMSN to respect the obligations undertaken on 10 July 1978. Because of this, our organization offers its support and unreservedly sides with the CMSN and its chairman Colonel MaayouiaOuld Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya, head of state.

We seize this opportunity to say that the General Union of Mauritanian Employers will spare no effort to participate in the national development process within the framework of the directives and priorities defined by the CMSN.

Bendjedid Envoy Received by New Head of State

AB132125 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Colonel Maayouia Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, received General Rashid Benyelles, member of the National Liberation Front Political Bureau, secretary general of the Algerian Ministry of Defense, and special envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting took place in the presence of Major Cheikh Sid 'Ahmed Ould Babamine, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Upon his arrival in Nouakchott this morning, the Algerian president's envoy explained the aim of his visit to the press.

[Begin Benyelles recording] I have been sent by President Chadli Bendjedid as a special envoy to President Maayouia in the framework of the rather special relations existing between our two countries; special relations, first of all, because we are neighboring countries, and, secondly, because we have signed a brotherhood and harmony agreement. The aim of this visit, of course, falls within the framework of the exchange of opinions between the two presidents on events in the region. [end recording]

MOROCCO

'Arafat Comments on Talks with Hassan, Leaves Fes

LD131416 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Fes, Dec 13 (MAP) — Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat left Fes Wednesday afternoon after a short visit to Morocco during which he was received by King Hassan II.

In a statement to the press, Mr 'Arafat described his talks with the sovereign as "positive and fruitful," adding that he had briefed the monarch on the decisions made by the 17th session of the Palestinian National Council (parliament-in-exile) held recently in Amman. These decisions, he outlined, were unanimously backed by the Palestinian popular masses both inside and outside the occupied territories.

Mr 'Arafat added that he had also informed King Hassan II about the latest developments of the situation in Palestine and about the terrorist and barbarous acts perpetrated by Zionists against the holy shrines of Islam and Christianism in Al-Quds al-Sharif and Al Khalil.

Talks with the sovereign have also dealt with the situation prevailing on the Arab arena, Mr 'Arafat said, adding that they had stressed the need to adopt a joint and solidarity Arab stance and joint Arab efforts for the support and triumph of the Palestinian cause on the international arena.

Regarding the perspectives of the Palestinian action in the wake of the 17th session of the PNC, the PLO leader said this action is axed around three items: Intensify the Palestinian military action in southern Lebanon and inside the occupied territories, support the Palestinian people to confront Zionist terrorism which is organized and supported by the Israeli military junta and backed by the Israeli Government, and to face the Zionist schemes, namely expropriation, expulsion of Palestinian inhabitants, and total occupation of the land of Palestine.

The future Palestinian action, Mr 'Arafat added, is also aiming at helping the war-torn Palestinian and Lebanese people surmount this difficult situation.

SUDAN

Kuwait Congratulated on Handling of Hijack 'Incident'

EA131108 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Sudan has emphasized its condemnation and total rejection of all forms of terrorism. It also has stressed its support for and appreciation of the stand taken by the Kuwait Government throughout the ordeal of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti aircraft and the resolute and wise methods adopted in dealing with the incident, based on the principle of nonsubmission to terrorism. This was said during a visit made by Mr Ibrahim Muhammad 'Ali, Foreign Ministry under secretary, to the Kuwait Embassy in Khartoum. He conveyed congratulations of the government and people of Sudan to Kuwait's ambassador to Sudan, 'Abdallah al-Sadiq, on the methods employed to safeguard the passengers.

His excellency the ambassador expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the government and people of Sudan for the good brotherly feelings concerning this passing incident.

SPLA Launches Offensive in Western Upper Nile Area

EA131752 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] SPLA forces in Western Upper Nile administrative area have launched a new offensive against government forces there. In its first offensive on 8 December 1984 units of the SPLA of Tiger and Timsah battalions, under the command of First Lieutenant (Manyang Atir Patriono) and Lt (Centina Deng Dau) sealed off an army barracks in the area. In the attack, 13 foxholes were completely destroyed and the enemy incurred heavy casualties both in lives and materiel.

In its second offensive, SPLA forces under the command of (Poliano Bater Wagak) attacked a ferry boat on the Bentiu River and destroyed it completely.

Briefs

New Nigerian Ambassador — Khartoum, 8 Dec (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received here today the credentials of Haj Mahmud Sulayman, the new Nigerian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. [Summary] [*Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Dec 84 JN*]

Oil Exploration Grant — The World Bank has agreed to finance a technical study aimed at encouraging petroleum exploration in Sudan with a sum of $12 million. The study will make it possible to determine places in which exploration companies can be granted licences. A group of experts from the British company (Robert Sandrotech) will participate in the study. [Text] [*Omduraman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Dec 84 EA*]

Sudanese Ambassador to YAR — Sanaa, 11 Dec (SUNA) — His Excellency Ambassador 'Abbas al-Mu'tasim al-Shaykh presented his credentials to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salim the day before yesterday as Sudan's extraordinary ambassador and plenipotentiary to the YAR. [Text] [*Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1443 GMT 11 Dec 84 JN*]

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister on U.S. Bases, SDAR, Libya

LD131150 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0948 GMT 13 Dec 84

[By Nabil Barad'i]

[Excerpts] Tunis, 13 Dec (KUNA) — The Tunisian foreign minister, Beji Caid Essebsi, today denied reports that the United States had asked Tunisia to grant it military facilities. He also expressed his government's displeasure at the existence of Tunisian opposition training camps in Libya.

In an interview with KUNA, Caid Essebsi affirmed that his country "supports the Western Saharan people's right to self-determination." He added, however, that nothing new has happened to prompt his government to recognize the Saharan Republic proclaimed by the Polisario.

He described reports about his likely resignation from the government of Mohamed Mzali as "an old myth." He also denied recent rumors about a likely amendment to the Tunisian Constitution and the appointment of a vice president to President Habib Bourguiba, thus depriving the prime minister of succession rights to the presidency as guaranteed to him by the constitution in the case of the death of the president or his loss of the capacity to

exercise his authority. Caid Essebsi affirmed that he "supports respect for the constitution because constitutions are not matters that are revised weekly."

Caid Essebsi denied constant reports about the existence of differences between him and Mzali and said that "I have been a member of the present government for about 4 years. I am responsible for an important section, the Foreign Ministry. I am continuing my work and meet daily with the prime minister. I also meet with President Bourguiba several times each week. I believe I am performing my duty within the government. I have no problems with anyone because I do not work in a personal capacity but within the framework of the principles of a Socialist Destourian Party and in the light of a policy in which I believe. If anyone is displeased with me, that is a matter which concerns him alone. I myself am not displeased with anyone."

Asked about the cool atmosphere prevailing over Tunisian-Moroccan relations because of Tunisia's failure to side with Morocco on theWestern Saharan question at the recent African summit conference in Addis Ababa, Caid Essebsi replied: "First, we consider our relations with Morocco to be good. Morocco is a long-standing, friendly country with which we have distinguished relations. Furthermore, we aspire to build the Great Arab Maghreb and we believe that this would be impossible without Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania or the Libyan Jamahiriyah."

"As to the Saharan question," he said, "our foreign policy is based on constant principles which are not the by-product of events but have characterized Tunisian policy since achieving independence in 1956. One of these principles provides for our belief in the right of people to self-determination and non-interference in their internal affairs. Hence, with regard to the so-called Saharan problem, we support the right of self-determination for the Saharan people. This is also what King Hassan II declared at the Nairobi summit conference. Tunisia was the first country to salute the Moroccan king because of this stand, which it supported."

Speaking of the Saharan Republic proclaimed by the Polisario, Caid Essebsi said that "as is known to all, the Saharans have set up their own state and asked many countries to recognize it, but Tunisia has not accorded it recognition."

Asked if Tunisia is planning to recognize the Saharan Republic, Caid Essebi said that "in politics there is no place for intentions, only facts. The fact now is that we do not recognize the Saharan Republic."

In reply to a question about the reproach the Tunisian Government recently addressed to the Libyan Government on the presence of Tunisian opposition training camps in Libya, Beji Caid Essebsi said: It is no secret to say that there are in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Tunisian groups receiving military training. He added: Tunisia is not pleased with the presence of such groups, whether in the Jamahiriyah or else where. Therefore, we draw the attention of the brothers in Libya to this situation, which we regard as being abnormal. We wish that these camps be closed and the groups expelled! Such a decision would positively affect relations between the two countries.

Asked whether Tunisia makes the closure of these camps and the expulsion of the Tunisian opposition a condition for the normalization of its relations with Libya, the Tunisian foreign minister said: Our relations with Libya are normal, but we believe that the presence of these camps negatively affects these relations.

Asked whether his country has made new efforts to overcome the obstacles preventing Libya from joining the fraternal treaty between Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania, he replied: When the question of Libya's application to join the treaty was submitted to us, we welcomed it because in fact it is a natural request from a state qualified to join this treaty. We worked for the establishment of a dialogue between the parties concerned — Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and the Jamahiriyah — in order to discuss the question of the Jamahiriyah joining the treaty. But owing to circumstances we were unable to make available a suitable climate for the establishment of the required dialogue, bearing in mind that we still regard Libya's request to join the treaty as being ongoing. As far as we are concerned there is nothing to prevent the establishment of the required dialogue.

Asked about the feasibility of holding an Arab summit conference, Caid Essebsi said: First, I must say that our relations with all states are good. For this reason, we continue to have contacts with and hold dialogues with all Arab sides in an effort to bring various views closer together in the case of the existence of any differences. However, we do not believe that summits are goals in themselves, but simply excellent opportunities and frameworks within which the Arab leaders meet to exchange views on important matters of common interest in order to reach a joint Arab action benefitial to all. He added: But if no common ground exists for joint Arab action and a closing of ranks, then we believe there would be no need to hold a summit conference.

Replying to a question about Tunisia's position toward King Husayn's proposal about solving the Palestine question on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolution No 242 and the PLO's rejection of that resolution because it deals with the Palestinians as refugees, Caid Essebsi said: First, I wish to state that the Palestine question concerns the Palestinians themselves before anyone else. He added: True, it does also concern all Arabs, but the priority with regard to decisionmaking rests with the Palestinians to make decisions that we as Arabs could support.

In reply to another question, Caid Essebsi refuted rumors that the United States had asked Tunisia to grant it military facilities and said: The United States has not asked for any facilities, nor have we agreed to a nonexistent request. He pointed out that "Tunisia has relations of friendship and cooperation with the United States, and these relations include agreements pertaining to the Tunisian Army and providing it with military hardware. These agreements are similar to those concluded by Tunisia with other Western countries such as West Germany, Italy, France and Austria."

ETHIOPIA

'Napalm Bombs' Used in Attack on Badema

EA131220 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Badema: The fascist Dergue regime in its attacks on 11 December hit the town of Badema. In the attack, which was carried out on defenseless, innocent people, 139 houses and their contents were destroyed by napalm bombs. An immediate assessment of the damage showed that nine people were killed and five others seriously wounded in the attack.

Eritrean Groups Seek Unifying Democratic Front

LD132107 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1639 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Dec (KUNA) — The Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] said here today that Mr Abdullah Idris Muhammad, chairman of the ELF Revolutionary Council and Executive Committee, announced that a unifying meeting was held between the Eritrean groups who signed the Jeddah agreement 2 years ago to consolidate the national struggle. He said the meeting took place in an atmosphere of optimism and enthusiasm.

In a statement from an advanced position in the liberated Eritrean territories, Mr Idris said that, after this meeting, we aspire to establish a comprehensive unity by admitting the group that did not attend this meeting, the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front [EPLF].

He pointed out that the aim of holding the current meeting of the leadership of the three Eritrean groups is to ratify the comprehensive unity among the three Eritrean groups in a democratic national front.

Mr Abdullah said that all the steps and preparations were taken for the success of the unifying meeting, which was held in liberated Eritrean territories in the evening of last Tuesday. Each group sent 27 members who had been elected in administrative conferences. The groups are the ELF-RC, ELF-PLF, and the (?Central Council of the Popular Liberation Forces and the Revolutionary Committee).

TANZANIA

Salim Hosts Dinner for PRC Parliamentarians

EA131244 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1000 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Prime Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim has said that Tanzanians appreciated the assistance which China gives to their country. Speaking at a State House dinner he hosted last night in honor of the visiting Chinese parliamentarians, Ndugu Salim said the visits would help cement existing understanding between China and Tanzania.

In reply to Salim's remarks, the leader of the Chinese parliamentarians, Ndugu Huang Hua, hailed the Tanzanians for their efforts to develop their country, saying that Tanzania had a great potential for development. He said China has reached a considerable high level of development and that its achievements could be useful and beneficial to developing countries.

Ndugu Huang said that the friendship between Tanzania and China was a long-standing one which has survived many (?arduous? times and which the Chinese people cherished.

The 12-man delegation of the People's National Congress of China arrived in the country in December for a week's visit. They also attended the 23d independence anniversary celebrations and visited Zanzibar and Arusha.

PRC Delegation Ends Visit

EA132247 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The 12-man PRC parliamentary delegation ended its 1-week visit to the country today. The delegation exchanged views today with ministers in the office of the speaker of the Tanzanian National Assembly in Dar es Salaam.

The Chinese delegation at the talks was headed by Ndugu Huang Hua, the vice-chairman of the Chinese Parliament and member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, while the Tanzanian delegation was headed by Chief Adam Sapi Mkwawa, speaker of the National Assembly.

Ndugu Mustafa Nyanganyi, the minister of state in the president's office responsible for international cooperation, told the Chinese delegation that Tanzania does not have a law governing joint projects, but instead there are regulations governing the launching of such projects. Ndugu Nyanganyi was replying to a question from a Chinese delegate who wanted to know whether there was a law governing joint projects in the country.

Earlier, the delegation urged both the workers and management at the Dar es Salaam-based Urafiki textile factory and the Ubungo agricultural implements factory to boost production so as to reduce the economic problems facing our country. The call was made when the delegation visited the two factories.

Ndugu Julius Mhondo, the general manager of the Urafiki textile factory, informed the delegation that his factory faces a shortage of trained personnel in the fields of engineering and (?research).

Ndugu (Joel Dina Afinike), the acting general manager of the agricultural implements factory, informed the delegation that last year the factory made profits amounting to 22 million shillings from sales worth 269 million shillings. The Urafiki textile factory and the Kizako [not further identified] were built with Chinese Government assistance.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mitterrand Concludes African Tour, Leaves for Paris

AB140915 Bangui Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpts] French President Mitterrand last night ended a 24-hour visit to the CAR. The French head of state left Bangui at 1745 on board his presidential plane, an Air France Concord. Mr Mitterrand was seen off by General Andre Kolingba and by other members of the Military Committee for National Recovery [CMRN] present in Bangui. Shortly before his departure, the French president met with French nationals living in the CAR.

Earlier in the morning, the French president had been made an honorary citizen of Bangui City. Before that, he laid a wreath on the cenotaph of Barthelemy Boganda. Our country's distinguished guest also visited the sights of Bouari.

On the evening of his arrival, Mitterrand said at a banquet, hosted by Mr and Mrs Kolingba, that France was determined to remain at the side of the CAR. France will continue to fulfill its commitments to the CAR, in particular with respect to its security, the French head of state said and went on to express France's (?admiration) for his host's courage and determination to work for peace and national recovery.

Earlier, CAR head of state Gen Andre Kolingba, chairman of the CMRN, had extolled the time-honored bonds of friendship between France and the CAR as well as the excellent relations between Paris and Bangui.

CHAD

Minister Comments on Cheysson Replacement

PM131641 Paris LE MONDE in French 11 Dec 84 p 2

[Unattributed report: "New Overflight by Libyan Aircraft"]

[Text] Libyan Marchetti fighter planes overflew Monou and Ito (northeast Chad) controlled by the government forces 3 days ago, according to a reliable source in Ndjamena Sunday, 9 December. In addition, the Chadian authorities are increasingly stressing the possibility of "secret clauses" allegedly included in the Franco-Libyan agreement on military withdrawal from Chad and which would enable Tripoli to ensure its control over the north of the country once and for all.

Commenting Saturday, 8 December, on Roland Dumas' appointment to the post of external relations minister, replacing Claude Cheysson, Information Minister Soumaila told our special envoy:

"We take note of the change that has just taken place in the Quai d'Orsay. France is sovereign in this sphere. However, we note that Mr Dumas, who is a personal friend of Francois Mitterrand, is the man who went to Tripoli in August 1943 [as published] to try to secure the withdrawal of the Libyan forces stationed in Chad.

"All we want is for France, whose troops were withdrawn out of a concern to safeguard peace in this part of the world, to understand the situation created by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's delays. In other words, we hope that Paris will move toward a strengthening of the Franco-Chadian cooperation policy to help the Chadian Government and people rid themselves of the Libyans."

GABON

Comoros Head of State Arrives for Visit

AB131515 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Most heads of state who attended the Bujumbura Franco-African summit have since returned home. President Bongo of Gabon is expected in Libreville this afternoon at 1630. Meanwhile, Comoros head of state Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane arrived in Libreville last night for a working visit lasting a few days.

During his visit, he will go to the southeast of Gabon, especially Franceville, which he visited this morning, and Port-Gentil, the Gabonese economic capital on the Atlantic coast.

Communique Issued on 4-Nation Summit in Lagos

AB131125 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Communique on conference of heads of state of Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Benin issued in Lagos on 10 December — read by Hospice Antonio, Beninese minister of finance]

[Text] The four-nation summit which grouped Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo took place in Lagos 9-10 December 1984. Present at this meeting were General Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin; Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, head of state and chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council of Ghana; General Muhammadu Buhari, head of state, commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and General Gnassingbe Eyadema, president of the Republic of Togo.

During the meeting, the heads of state examined, adopted, and signed the documents prepared by ministers of foreign affairs and interior of the four countries — an extradition treaty, an agreement on cooperation in the field of criminal police, and an agreement on mutual and administrative assistance in the areas of customs, trade, and immigration. The heads of state recalled the circumstances that led to the signing of these agreements, and noted that these agreements represented the culmination of efforts since August to consolidate measures for strengthening security and improving the economic, social, and political well-being of the people of the four nations.

They expressed the belief that these agreements and this treaty will contribute largely toward eliminating the nefarious activities of some citizens of the four countries who have been indulging in armed robbery, smuggling, and currency trafficking, as well as other activities that disturb the economies and public order inside and across the borders of these states. In this connection, they called for closer cooperation between the competent government services — customs police and other institutions in charge of ensuring law and order — stressing that these measures are indispensable for the full execution of these agreements.

In acknowledging that these agreements attest to the collective determination of these nations to seek ways and means to guarantee security and peace and to strengthen the solidarity and relations of good neighborliness existing between them as a means to further encourage economic development, the heads of state emphasized that these agreements can only be implemented by means of unanimous political will. To this end, they called on the appropriate national institutions to promptly ratify these documents, thus giving them the force of law. Finally, they reiterated the motives that led the four countries to meet these past 4 months, and they stressed that they did not seek to set up a rival organization or establish a subregional unit within ECOWAS. On the contrary, they expressed the hope that these agreements would serve as a true instrument for consolidating the objectives of ECOWAS.

Praising the efforts of ministers and experts, the head of state expressed appreciation for their contribution to the successful organization of the summit and rendered homage to President Gnassingbe of Togo for the initiative taken in this regard.

At the end of the summit, the heads of state of Benin, Ghana, and Togo expressed their sincere gratitude to Gen Muhammadu Buhari, head of the Federal Military Government, commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, and to the government and people of Nigeria for the warm and fraternal reception accorded them during their stay in Lagos.

Issued in Lagos on 10 December 1984

BURKINA

Accords Signed With France on Dam Construction

AB131045 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, France and Burkina Faso signed two financial conventions totalling 5.7 billion CFA francs for the construction of a hydroelectric dam at Pama on the Kompyelga.

New Secretary General of ANAD Interviewed

AB131100 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council for the Revolution [CNR] and president of Burkina Faso, received in audience this afternoon, General Jean Gomis, the new secretary general of the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement, ANAD, which brings together the seven member states of the West African Economic Community, CEAO, and Togo.

Following the audience, General Jean Gomis told the press that he discussed with the Burkina Faso president the budget and activities of ANAD for 1985. Let's listen to the ANAD secretary general review the activities of the organization for Richard Yameogo:

[Begin recording] [Gomis] I can say that there is nothing secret about the activities we discussed, so I can speak about them. The discussions dealt with activities that will permit the soldiers of member states to meet and to get to know and appreciate each other. What kind of activities? First of all there are sporting activities that we could organize to enable men of all ranks to meet; we could also organize information conferences for military cadres and perhaps also for the civilian population; and finally general conferences on the economy, defense, and civil protection. These are the essentials of the international activities that we can engage in next year if we have the financial means. Of course, we know that to support such activities, we will need a minimum of financial means.

[Yameogo] You spoke about sporting activities and conferences, but you did not mention military maneuvers. Won't you organize them?

[Gomis] Well, to be specific, in order to undertake military maneuvers, one must first of all determine whether there is the means to finance them. There must be materiel and transport,

which are very expensive. Considering the present economic situation and lack of means, I think that it is impossible to envisage these kinds of maneuvers, at least for next year.

[Yameogo] Mr Secretary General, you just replaced General Calvares de Souza as head of the ANAD. What is your goal at the ANAD?

[Gomis] Since my predecessor, General Calvares, did the difficult part of the work — the groundwork of building the house brick by brick starting the preliminary organizational work — the protocol texts must now be constituted in a manner that the member states can work with on a solid basis. Most of the fundamental legal instruments exist; what remains now is to ratify and implement them. In order to implement them, the necessary means must be found. Evidently, member states have accepted making annual contributions to permit the running of the general secretariat; that is, to pay the salaries of the international functionaries. There are about 30 of us now. A minimum of financial means is needed for management and administration; in addition, there should be an operational budget. Without such a budget, nothing can be done.

You know that, as in everything, no action can be taken empty handed. This applies especially to the question of moving troops. Take my case. In order to get here to contact the president within the framework of my duties, I had to travel by plane. Therefore some expenditure is involved and if we had no money, I wouldn't be able to travel.

[Yameogo] So after your talks with the Burkina Faso president, are you optimistic about Burkina's positive participation in the running of the ANAD?

[Gomis] Well, frankly I admit that I am very optimistic, because the Burkina Faso president is a very dynamic member and I think he has manifested his desire to make ANAD an organization that can meet the aspirations of the member states in terms of defense and protection of the economy. And I myself, having just taken over, am enjoying a more advantageous situation because the working documents exist. It now suffices to build on the work already accomplished. Only the future will tell what we have achieved together; that is, Sankara in his capacity as the current chairman of the heads of state conference, and myself as the ANAD secretary general.

GHANA

Reagan Commended on 'New Attitude' Toward RSA

AB131615 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Kojo Yankah commentary]

[Text] The U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, has made a very important statement regarding South Africa's apartheid policy which must not be overlooked.

In a speech marking International Human Rights Day, President Reagan called on the apartheid regime in South Africa to end the forced removal of blacks from their communities and the detention without trial of black leaders. There are occasions when quiet diplomacy is not enough, the President is quoted as saying. He continued: We must remind the leaders of nations who are friendly to the United States that such friendships also create responsibilities for them and for us. According to a senior White House official, there has been a turn-away from quiet diplomacy on the human rights situation in South Africa. The new attitude of President Reagan and his words, which should be used as sign of a new attitude, should mark a very important turning point in the whole southern Africa question. The shift from quiet diplomacy on the surface should signal a new movement towards reality in what has become the sore spot in Africa-U.S. relations.

On several occasions, even at UN forums, the United States has either abstained from voting or has vetoed proposals aimed at bringing South Africa's apartheid policy to its knees. Constructive engagement has been employed over the years and President Reagan's first term in office was studded with fanning of polarization, violence, and the extinction of any hope for peaceful and truly democratic change in South Africa. Reviewing his past performance over the last 4 years in Africa, President Reagan may have come to grips with the realities of the day, namely, that African states do not have a good word for his administration because of his attitude toward the South Africa question; secondly, that time is running out for quiet diplomacy; and, finally, that blacks in South Africa, unarmed as they are, are fiercely resisting apartheid with their blood, even at the risk of bringing the Western-backed economy down. Mr Reagan has struck the right chord at the right time and he must be commended for his high statesmanship.

Prime Minister Botha is certainly not happy with President Reagan's remarks, but he will be deceiving himself if he thinks that apartheid is unshakable. Ian Smith never thought or dreamt of majority rule in today's Zimbabwe, but history could not (?be stopped).

Today, President Reagan will add to his friends if he supports his candid words with action by preventing any direct or indirect support to the apartheid regime. And as he rightly said, this is equally a moral responsibility for all friends of the United States. Black majority rule is a democratic expediency and nothing can be done to stop it. The world will be more peaceful if South African blacks are free from apartheid.

LIBERIA

Doe Holds Talks With Visiting Chinese Vice Premier

AB131530 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The head of state has been holding further talks with the visiting Chinese vice premier, Tian Jiyun, on further strengthening Sino-Liberian relations. The talks, which were held at the executive mansion, also centered around bilateral and economic cooperation between the two countries. Meanwhile, the visiting vice premier, Tian Jiyun, yesterday toured the new sports complex under construction in Paynesville near Monrovia.

$50-Million Loan Agreement Signed With PRC

AB141015 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] An agreement for a $50-million interest-free loan was yesterday signed between the Governments of China and Liberia at the Foreign Ministry in Monrovia.

Under the agreement, the Chinese Government will provide the money within 7 years to finance on-going Chinese-sponsored projects in Liberia.

Part of the loan will also be used for other development projects as may be agreed upon by the two governments.

The money is to be repaid in 20 years with a grace period of 5 years.

Acting Finance Minister John G. Desmond signed for the Liberian Government, while the Chinese vice minister of foreign economy and trade, Lu Xuejian, signed for his government.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Desmond described the loan as (?welcome) and lauded the Chinese Government for continuously identifying with Liberia's development aspirations.

He said Liberia looked forward to such a relationship among Third World nations which, he said, could yield fruitful results through joint projects or efforts.

MALI

Traore Returns to Bamako From Bujumbura Summit

AB132250 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The head of state, General Moussa Traore, returned last night to Bamako from Bujumbura in Burundi where he took part in the deliberations of the 11th conference of heads of state of France and Africa.

Almost 40 countries participated in this 11th conference, which ended in the Burundian capital yesterday morning.

NIGERIA

Former Niger Governor Given 21-Year Jail Term

AB132245 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Former Governor Anwal Ibrahim of Niger State has been sentenced to a total of 105 years' imprisonment for corruption. He was found guilty today for five of an eight-count charge by the Kaduna Zone of the Special Military Tribunal on the Recovery of Public Property. He is also to refund 280,000 naira to the Federal Government within 1 month, which he converted into his personal use while serving as the chief executive of Niger State.

In the judgment, the chairman of the tribunal, Navy Commander Baba Tunde Elegbede, ordered that 146,000 naira given to the former legislators of the state by the ex-governor be returned and paid into the Federal Government's coffers also within a month. Three other charges were dropped out for want of evidence and [word indistinct]. The sentences are to run concurrently. Therefore, Anwal Ibrahim would serve 21 years.

SENEGAL

Bomb Reportedly Found on Air Afrique Plane

AB141005 Dakar PANA in French 0933 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Dakar, 14 Dec (TAP/PANA) — A bomb was found on an Air Afrique plane on a Paris-Marseilles-Dakar flight on Tuesday evening, it was learned from generally well-informed sources in the Senegalese capital.

The plane had to make an emergency stopover in Casablanca (Morocco), where police dogs of the Moroccan security services found other explosives in addition to the bomb discovered in the toilet by a steward after the plane took off from the Marseilles airport, the same sources pointed out.

It will be recalled that a dispute exists between Air Afrique and its former French flight personnel who were dismissed following their recent strike in protest against the measures taken by the company's management aimed at reducing salaries in order to cope with the crisis affecting the company.

ANGOLA

Cultural Accord Signed With Czechoslovakia

MB131900 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Luanda, 13 Dec [ANGOP] — An accord for the implementation of a cultural cooperation program between Angola and Czechoslovakia was signed in Luanda on Wednesday by Boaventura Cardoso, Angolan state secretary for culture, and Milos Vesely, Czechoslovak ambassador to Angola.

This program for 1985-86, which supplements the accords already signed between the two countries, includes the training of Angolan cadres, and the exchange of art delegations and specialists between the Angolan State Secretariat for Culture and its Czechoslovak counterpart.

On the occasion of signing the accord, Boaventura Cardoso expressed the satisfaction of the Angolan party and Government with the signing of such a meaningful cooperation accord, which reflects the high level of relations the two parties and governments have maintained since the struggle for national liberation.

The Angolan state secretary for culture said that with the signing of the accord for this program we have realized one of the concrete guidelines of the party, one which reasserts the friendship ties with all countries, particularly with the countries of the socialist community. The Angolan state secretary for culture stressed the importance of this accord at a time when imperialism has not yet stopped its aggression against Angola.

In turn, Milos Vesely discussed the training of Angolan students in his country and also the contacts between the two countries in this field.

Commentary Condemns UNITA Killing Civilians

MB122040 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Station commentary: "Despair and Revenge Equals Crime"]

[Text] There has been a significant flow of blood in Longonjo, Huambo Province. A group of armed outlaws entered the village on Saturday morning and left behind as a calling card 85 dead — including children and the elderly. This was part of another act by men who are devoted to crime. Horrible as it is, this kind of crime no longer surprises the Angolan people, because they are conscious that the murder of defenseless civilians and the destruction of economic objectives are acts of terrorism mounted by the counterrevolutionaries in the pay of Pretoria and Washington.

Having been deeply shaken by the heavy blows inflicted on it by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and confronted with increasing desertions by its elements, the criminal UNITA group, which is an extended wing of the South African Army against Angola, has already entered into a phase of [words indistinct] demonstrated by indiscriminate killings and [words indistinct]. Acts of barbarity like this one carried out in Longonjo are part of a final attempt at destabilization [words indistinct the false image that the lackeys in the service of the powerful Western interests continue to constitute an alternative to the legitimate Angolan government. [passage indistinct]

The continuation of the war of destabilization in Angola is the work of U.S. imperialism and South African racism. The material and moral responsibility for the crimes carried out must not only be attributed to the puppets. It must also be attributed to imperialism and racism [words indistinct]. All the same, the Angolan people's response is firm and full of determination. The murder of peaceful citizens in Longonjo has yielded consequences which are exactly the opposite of those which the perpetrators of the murder intended — to intimidate our people.

These acts of barbarity are a sign of despair, combined with a thirst for revenge. The increasing desertions in UNITA ranks demonstrate growing awareness and hatred of its criminal actions. The methods it applies demonstrate the nearing of the end for the Pretoria lackeys instead of creating general instability. However, the UNITA gang, like any group of murderers supported by powerful and influential financial circles, will not just cease to exist without our efforts. That bandity can only be eliminated through the effort of popular struggle, through heavy blows inflicted on it by FAPLA, the people's defense organization, and the people's vigilante brigades — in brief, through blows inflicted by all our people. [passage indistinct]

Pretoria does not show its hand directly, because that is inconvenient and impractical at the diplomatic level, but the crimes committed by its puppets give reason for suspicion. The South African plan is not aimed at bringing about peace in southern Africa. However, the Angolan [words indistinct] even if the price of such a policy is too high, will not allow its sovereignty and security [words indistinct].

UNITA Denies Longonju Massacre

MB140731 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Free land of Angola, 14 Dec (KUP) — KUP has been able to gather the following facts, which it wishes to announce to international opinion. The UNITA official news media, connected with the general staff of the armed forces, categorically denies a massacre of civilians on Friday, 7 December, during the storming and capture of Longonjo town by UNITA forces. Longonjo is situated barely a few kilometers from the Huambo provincial capital.

During the fighting in Longonjo, 50 MPLA military men were killed, including the commanding officer of the battalion, and a large quantity of arms was captured. The intervention by the Cuban Air Force was thwarted by UNITA anti-aircraft batteries. The residents took to the town streets shouting: Long live UNITA, long live President Dr Savimbi.

The MPLA's claim that there was a massacre of civilians in Longonjo is an attempt to cover up the successive defeats of its troops in the face of UNITA's victories at Cambambe, Mabubas,

Uige, and Lunda dams. The truth about Angola can no longer be distorted. UNITA will win and the people are waiting for President Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, the only leader able to unite the whole Angolan people.

MOZAMBIQUE

Veloso Discusses Outside Support for 'Bandits'

MB140922 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 13 Dec 84

[First part of two-part interview with Jacinto Veloso, minister in the Presidency for Economic Affairs, by Radio Mozambique, Radio France-Inter, and *O JORNAL* of Portugal — date and place not given]

[Text] Jacinto Veloso, the minister in the Presidency for Economic Affairs and the head of the Mozambique delegation to the talks with the Republic of South Africa on issues connected with the implementation of the Nkomati Accord, gave a lengthy interview a few days ago to Radio Mozambique, Radio France-Inter, and a Portuguese weekly, *O JORNAL*. In it, he examined the main aspects related to the implementation of the accord and the 3 October declaration, as well as the obstacles that are now being faced.

During the interview, while speaking of the current state of negotiations with South Africa, Jacinto Veloso said: Mozambique has great hopes, that is, Mozambique decided as a sovereign state to sign such an accord and I think that that accord corresponds to the desire of the two states and their interests.

He stressed that Mozambique first defended its national interests, and he explained that the Nkomati Accord had created a bilateral relationship between the two countries, and that regular meetings were held at various levels to implement various aspects of the accord. On the current state of the accord, Minister Jacinto Veloso said that the main aspect, the most important aspect, is the issue of security. He added that, without a solution to this problem, which is one of the problems contemplated in the accord, all other aspects and the development and the application of the accord may be endangered.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Minister, interpreting your words, can we say that Mozambique places in doubt the results of the Nkomati Accord?

[Veloso] No. Mozambique does not place doubt. Well, doubts are there but the accord was signed by the two states with a sense of responsibility. Accordingly, it is an accord that must be implemented. What I wanted to say is that there is one aspect of the accord that must be solved before anything else, because, without its solution, the accord becomes endangered, this is the security aspect, particularly the problem of the cessation of violence in our country.

[Question] But there are various reports being circulated to the effect that there also are non-South African sectors supporting the armed bandits.

[Veloso] That is true. I have also heard these reports, but all I can say is that I think — we think — and are convinced that the South African Government is implementing the accord and it is making efforts to see it implemented with regard to the South African side. The 3d October declaration made by the supreme authorities of the South African Government does demonstrate this decision, as well as the South African Government's desire to play an active role in the cessation of violence in Mozambique and to try to achieve this result as soon as possible.

Well, it is possible that there may be some difficulties. These difficulties result from interference by other forces, which in some way jeopardize the exercise. There are signs that individuals and organizations inside South Africa are compromising, or perhaps even violating, the accord and continue to support the armed banditry in Mozambique. We are investigating these situations and we think that some results may be presented soon. The rumors being circulated have a certain grain of truth to them, particularly because the sectors where they come from are very attentive sectors with regard to the development of events and implementation of the accord itself.

What do these people see? Well, they see that violence has not ceased, and they have a firm conviction that the bandits continue to receive support from abroad. Accordingly, these rumors, these reports, have a certain grain of truth.

[Question] But Mr Minister, do you find any similarity to the support given to the bandits from abroad, for example South Africa, Portuguese elements, Israel...I mean, do you still find that the principal support for the armed bandits comes from South Africa?

[Veloso] Well, it is difficult to say. Yes, there are forces * there is no doubt about it that there are forces — which are not South African forces, institutions or individuals, which are involved in the support for banditry. This support for banditry is found at various levels. It is a combination of various forces that are more or less convergent.

The wing which lately has been more persistant and acting in a retaliatory and almost desperate spirit is what we call the so-called Portuguese wing. This wing has been the most persistant and the most consistant. If we examine the banditry activities through the years, we note that this wing, the force, which is behind banditry, of course, with other ofrces as I said above, always comes up. Only its allies change along the years. It has been manifesting itself since the last years of the struggle for the national liberation in Mozambique.

During the signing of the Lusaka Accord in 1974, it is this combination of force that tried a coup against the accords signed between Frelimo and the Portuguese Government — that is, against the process of decolonization itself. This wing, which started then, continues to contest those accords and tries, that is what I think, to renegotiate them in a new context.

In practice, I think that it is timely to examine the so-called economic and financial issue, which, as we know, was for the second time shelved by Sa Carneiro, the late Portuguese prime minister. There is no doubt that by doing this he demonstrated

respect for the accords signed between the Portuguese Government and Frelimo in Lusaka, and it that time he was also expressing the desire to redevelop relations of friendship and fraternity between Portugal and Mozambique with mutual advantages for both peoples. [end recording]

[Announcer] The question that now arises is the so-called Portuguese component's importance in terms of the operations conducted by the armed bandits or the political propaganda carried out abroad about bandit activities.

[Begin recording] [Veloso] I believe that the Portuguese component of terrorism in Mozambique, which is formed by those people I mentioned earlier, is well-established abroad, which permits it to conduct well-organized propaganda campaigns. Naturally, these campaigns ar echoed in world opinion which is either not correctly informed or predisposed to believe them.

[Question] Mr Minister, is this component presently harming the relations between the legitimate governments of the two countries?

[Veloso] In practice it does harm the intergovernmental relations. I believe that in the daily routine the relations are being harmed because when we talk and listen to people, not only in Mozambique, but in other countries as well, they ask many qu ions. They ask why does the Portuguese Government not take ac. on; what is the problem; why can't our two peoples freely develop their relations; and what prevents the Portuguese Government from taking action? Also, they go to the extent of asking whether the Portuguese Government is somehow involved and whether in fact the dispute between the two countries has not been definitely shelved; what is going on?

The opinions of these people as expressed through these questions command a great deal of weight. It is difficult to answer them, especially when they come from people whom we know and who have been in one way or another victims of terrorist actions. They are people who have either lost their families — had their relatives burned, murdered, and machine gunned in buses — or saw theirs and their relatives' crops burned and plundered. They are people whose children have been cold-bloodedly murdered, their wives raped and their breasts and noses chopped off, and so on. So, these are people who know or have heard of a number of criminal and terrorist acts, one more horrible than the previous one.

Then the question arises: Why does the Portuguese Government not take action? Portuguse nationals are being threatened, murdered, and kidnapped. Even Portuguese interests, such as Cahora Bassa and Portuguese enterprises operating in Mozambique, some for a long time now, have been harmed. Thus these questions arise. What should the Portuguese Government do? I believe that it is only the Portuguese Government that can answer that question. [end recording]

During 1984, four Portuguese nationals were murdered by the armed bandits and 10 others kidnapped. Their whereabouts is not known. Moreover, reports from Cahora Bassa, that were later confirmed at the Portuguese Embassy in Maputo by the journalists who conducted this interview with Minister Jacinto Veloso, indicate that Portugal is presently losing about 2,000 contos per hour due to the sabotage of the Cahora Bassa power lines carrying energy to South Africa by the armed bandits.

In his interview Jacinto Veloso added:

[Begin recording] [Veloso] These are situations which make people ask questions. They are honest people, ordinary citizens who are not influenced by other forces or events. When it comes to the question of how should the Portuguese Government act, as I was saying, it is only the Portuguese Government that can answer this question. The Portuguese Government knows fully well how to defend its interests and the interests of its country. Therefore, I would not express my opinion on this matter. I heard that a court case has been filed by the government against the representatives of banditry. I believe this is positive. However, the doubts still held by a number of people will only be eliminated through concrete actions which effectively serve to strengthen the relations between the two nations.

[Question] Mr Minister, when you speak of the Portuguese component, does it mean that it has the support or the tolerance of the Portuguese Government?

[Veloso] Well, I believe that... no, I do not believe, we are certain that the Portuguese Government is not involved in that support. [end recording]

However, Jacinto Veloso then spoke of the reasons that worry people about the so-called Portuguese component:

[Begin Veloso recording] What worries people, not only in Mozambique but also the friends of Mozambique all over the world, is why doesn't the Portuguese Government take action? Is it because it is unable to do anything? Is it because they do not have adequate laws? They also ask how can people issue propaganda from Lisbon that is based on pure terrorist acts; acts by people with no political ground, no policical basis; people who kill, maim, murder, and so on.

These people, who include Portuguese citizens, describe the Portuguese guest workers in Mozambique as military targets. They attack, destroy, and prevent the operation of the Cabora Bassa power lines in which the Portuguese nation has an enormous financial stake. The question is: based on this evidence, can the Portuguese Government and nation not act? Moreover, how can a democratic government, which defends individual freedoms, allow a terrorist movement to conduct its activities from its country's capital, without being the least molested? [end recording]

Merchant Marine Protocol Signed With USSR

MB131904 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] A merchant marine cooperation protocol was signed in Maputo today between Mozambique and the USSR. The document reinforces the already existing relations of cooperation in the development of sea transport and cargo handling, technical cooperation, and the training of cadres. The protocol was signed

by (Amilcar Pacheko), the national director for sea administration and security, and (Nikolay Kuzneston), a member of the ministerial collegium of the USSR maritime fleet. The signing of the document took place at the end of the 7th session of the Mozambique-USSR joint subcommission.

Renamo To Seek 'Military Solution' in Mozambique

LD132202 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Jorge Correia, Renamo [Mozambican National Resistance] spokesman in Europe, said in Oporto today that because there is no chance whatsoever of Renamo negotiating with Frelimo, the war is going to reach Maputo. We have pulled out of the negotiations, and we shall only negotiate if presidential elections are held and the constitution reviewed, he added.

Jorge Correia also said that Renamo is going for a military solution and not wasting any more time with "half-measure solutions." The war will reach the capital, Jorge Correia said, warning that Maputo will be immediately deprived of water and electricity.

After pointing out that Renamo is opting for complete radicalization, Correia said: "We shall let the collapse come about and take over the whole country."

In Maputo, Western diplomats and government sources today played down Renamo's claim that its guerrillas were about to launch an offensive against the capital.

SOUTH AFRICA

Crocker Interviewed on Reagan Policy; Reaction

Crocker on U.S. Strategy

MB131622 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, says the Reagan administration has never ruled out public diplomacy in its efforts to establish the kind of relationship it wishes to have with South Africa. He said the recent statement by President Ronald Reagan, which has been regarded by some observers as a move away from quiet diplomacy, was a strong and clear affirmation of what the United States stands for and wishes to see.

Quiet diplomacy is not a policy or a goal in itself, but rather a means of advancing a strategy. In an interview with Radio RSA's Washington correspondent, Dr Crocker said that even in the friendly relations [word indistinct] between the United States and South Africa, there were times when it was necessary to speak out.

Dr Crocker said it would be dangerous to downplay the significance of the current debate in America on apartheid. There were many people who had to be persuaded that the Reagan administration's policy towards South Africa had produced positive results, and that things in South Africa were changing in a constructive direction. He said the United States would like to see South Africa move towards the principle of government based on consent, that is, a government in which there is something for everyone.

With regard to negotiations concerning the independence of Namibia, Dr Crocker said agreement on the detailed terms of settlement had not been reached, but some important steps had been taken, and there was an increasing will to bring about a settlement.

SABC Reacts to Crocker

MB140541 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] In his reaction to Dr Crocker's reference to the South African Broadcasting Corporation [SABC], the director general of the SABC, Mr Riaan Eksteen, says Dr Crocker thought fit to involve the SABC in an attempt to support his arguments during his news conference in Washington.

Mr Eksteen said that, whereas Dr Crocker was apparently seriously concerned about exactness, he found it strange and surprising that he could, in the same breath, make generalizations without providing any proof or giving any concrete examples. Mr Eksteen said Dr Crocker had possibly heard that it was fashionable in South Africa to blame the SABC and to involve the corporation when in search of sensation. It would seem that he was uninformed about the SABC's presentation of the latest events and statements in Washington. Mr Eksteen said it had been a long time since the SABC had devoted so much time to a matter involving relations between South Africa and another country and which concerned every South African.

Mr Eksteen said in recent weeks the SABC had given Americans holding widely differing political views, including officials such as Dr Crocker, the opportunity to state their points of view fully. Should Dr Crocker have any proof of selective quotations and interpretations by the SABC Mr Eksteen would be pleased to receive them.

Mr Eksteen said he was certain that the American Emabssy would have let him know of any specific instances, should it have had these, of where the corporation in the American view had deviated and harmed the United States.

Commentary Cites Crocker Remarks

MB140704 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] That there is a great deal of confusion about the nature and purposes of constructive engagement, not only in the United States but in South Africa, is probably the main reason for its being a somewhat controversial issue in both countries, although for different reasons. It has also evidently precipitated a change

of tactic, a greater openness and harshness of diplomatic tone in the manner in which the policy is to be conducted.

That the change is, in fact, no more than one of tactics was emphasized in an SABC news interview with Dr Chester Crocker last night. There was no question of a change in strategy, Dr Crocker said, adding South Africa is still a friend. So constructive engagement is still on course. It is still being conducted in the spirit spelled out by President Reagan 4 years ago in his first policy statement on the subject. The United States, he said, should be helpful rather than obstructionist in respect of the reforms that were underway in South Africa.

That stand was part of a broader strategy for southern Africa based on the need to protect Western interests in a region that was under threat from Soviet expansionism. The broad goal was to engage in active diplomacy to reduce tensions in the region, to promote stability and economic development, and in so doing to strengthen the region's resistance to Soviet depredations. South Africa, as the economic and military giant of the subcontinent, was seen to be the linchpin in the operation. Its cooperation was essential, as much in its own interests as in those of the West. But, if South Africa was recognized as a partner, it was also seen to be a serious obstacle to achieving the regional goal.

Historical, political, and social inequities in the South African system, President Reagan said bluntly in an interview shortly before his recent reelection, were clearly a threat to U.S. interests, as well as an invitation to heightened instability and economic decline affecting all southern Africans. Hence the insistence that South Africans should make visible progress in realizing the objectives they themselves have set: the removal of those historical inequities, and the creation of a constitutional system in which all people are democratically involved. America has no blueprint for South Africa, said Dr Crocker. It does have a commitment to the fundamental democratic principle of government by consent of the governed. Constructive engagement has been criticized in the United States and in some quarters in South Africa as a policy of support for this country.

In respect of South Africa's security situation in southern Africa and the world at large that is certainly true, at least as far as the effects of the policy are concerned. This country has benefited substantially from American diplomacy in the subcontinent, the United Nations, and elsewhere. In respect of the political status quo in South Africa, however, and that is what the criticism has centered on, the accusation is nonsensical. What the policy demands is that the broad mass of moderate, enlightened South Africans should get on with the reform task they have set themselves.

RAND DAILY MAIL Comments on Reagan Policy

MB140910 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 14 Dec 84 p 9

[Column by Simon Barber: "Quiet Diplomacy Is Not Enough"]

[Text] Washington — Three years ago, the then secretary of state — General Alexander Haig — raised a glass to toast South Africa and the United States as "old friends who are getting together again". Those days are now gone. Not even a President with Ronald Reagan's spectacular second-term mandate could stand the strain such a relationship — real or imagined — placed upon his country's conscience.

This week, in a powerful speech to mark International Human Rights Day, Mr Reagan finally recanted. In dealing with Pretoria, he said, "quiet diplomacy is not enough".

"We feel a moral responsibility to speak out on this matter, to emphasise our concerns and our grief over the human and spiritual costs of apartheid," the President told an audience that comprised refugees from Cuba, the Soviet Union, Iran, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Nicaragua and Poland. The Government of South Africa must therefore "reach out to its black majority by ending the forced removal of blacks from their communities and the detention without trial and lengthy imprisonment of black leaders".

"Such action can only comfort those whose vision of South Africa's future is one of polarisation, violence and final extinction of any hope for peaceful democratic government."

Coming from this particular President these are tough — indeed, unprecedented — words ... and words, unfortunately, often seem to have an undue impact on the Afrikaner soul.

Pretoria will no doubt take umbrage, rant that its efforts at reform have once again been misunderstood, complain that it has been betrayed in order to appease a tiny minority of American activists and harrumph into its stockade.

Whatever the "I-told-you-so-we-must-fend-for-ourselves" rhetoric from the extreme Right, such a reaction would gravely misunderstand Mr Reagan's intent. In fact, insofar as his political circumstances allow, he was trying to do Pretoria a favour by buying a little time for his policy.

The basic premise of "constructive engagement" — that bullying South Africa's adamantine elite, however morally satisfying, is in the long run counter-productive — remains for now unchanged.

But Mr Reagan, who is every bit as much the hard realist as President Botha, has finally realised that to keep it that way requires that American ideals also be kept in plain sight.

Politically, the Administration's immediate task is to defuse the issue and the nationwide, headline-grabbing protests of the past three weeks. So awesome is apartheid's evil, and so Orwellian its creators attempts to explain it, that it prohibits any rational discussion about the means of its disolution. All that matters — especially when the debate is elevated to theological purity by the like of Bishop Desmond Tutu — is the end.

When Congress returns next January, the winter snow lies thick outside South Africa's Embassy and Consulates, Bishop Tutu is off the lecture circuit and there is other, more pressing, grist (the budget springs to mind) for the political mill, South Africa should fade from centre stage.

The Free South Africa Movement, having achieved its quickly achievable goals — the release or charging of the Labour detainees and a public change in the Administration's attitude — will start to evanesce, its energies dissipating into a more generalised campaign for jobs and against cuts in social spending.

So much for the good news. The bad news is that the administration also knows the status quo ante is unlikely ever to be fully restored. The political equation which has saved Pretoria for so long against punitive legislation exists no more.

Very simply, to fend off sanctions Mr Reagan will have not only to battle the likes of Congressman Stephen Solarz and the Congressional black caucus, but also his own supporters as they seek to become the dominant party of the next decade.

Some South African observers — including the chariman of Assacom, Mr Raymond Parsons — have tried to downplay the sanctions, branding the letter 35 conservative Congressmen last week sent Ambassador Brand Fourie as being short-term expedience, unrepresentative of real Republican sentiment in Congress. That is a serious error.

One of the letter's authors, Congressman Vin Weber, a 32-year-old Minnesotan who sits on the Republican national committee, is a staunch Reagan loyalist and has leadership ambitions. His agenda, as laid out on the pages of *THE WASHINGTON POST* this week, merits more than passing attention: "Under conservative guidance," he writes, "America must clearly define the moral basis for its leadership in the world.

Domestically, we have succeeded in challenging the moral dominance of redistributionist economics with an economic philosophy based on growth and opportunity. Internationally, however, we have been reluctant to face the same challenge.

"Therein lies the great challenge inherent in the question of South Africa. Traditionally, conservatives in the United States have forcussed their attention exclusively on South Africa's strategic importance to the Western alliance. The moral implications of supporting an avowedly racist government were rationalised away, if not blantantly ignored.

"If conservatives are to lead the free world into the 21st century, we must do so on the basis of a policy that has a firm and consistent moral foundation. We must stand firmly for freedom and democracy, and that does not permit us to blind our eyes to a government that denies both to the vast majority of its citizens simply because of the colour of their skin,"

Strong ianguage, to be sure... but Mr Weber doesn't leave it there. He goes on to argue that, by failing to reject apartheid more forcefully, the Reagan Administration is effectively blocking its own efforts to wean the Third World away from the failed liberal and socialist orthodoxies.

Indeed, the democratic free market models the White House so loudly endorses are automatically discredited if Washington will not apply the same standard towards South Africa.

These are the words of a rising generation of Republican ideologues (Senator Richard Lugar, the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is among them) who are not content to spend the rest of their careers as the permanent Congressional opposition. They wish to construct a new, more profoundly appealing image for their party, and who, furthermore, will have little scruple in overruling a lame-duck president to do it.

The worm is turning here in ways Bishop Tutu has not even imagined.

Commentary On Results of Constructive Engagement
MB131620 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Station commentary: "Constructive Engagement"]

[Text] Despite claims to the contrary in some quarters, the policies of the U.S. Government concerning South Africa are still very much on course. American State Department Spokesman Mr Alan Romberg made this clear yesterday when he said that recent remarks by President Reagan did not represent a change in the administration's policy towards South Africa.

The president's remarks, he said, were made to ensure that the government's diplomatic approach towards South Africa was better understood, at a time when it was being misconstrued or misunderstood. President Reagan was widely reported as having taken a tougher line against South Africa, when he said earlier this week that he felt a moral responsibility to voice concern and grief about apartheid. This, of course, is totally in keeping with the view expressed at the outset of his administration, when he referred to apartheid as abhorent.

The American President's feelings about South Africa's internal policies, therefore, have not changed, and he has felt it necessary to make this clear. At the same time, he obviously believes that his policy towards South Africa has borne fruit, and remains the best approach for the future. This is shown by his remarks to Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu, during their White House meeting last Friday. He told reporters afterwards that he had to disagree with Bishop Tutu, who maintained that the situation in South Africa had worsened. Those who criticized his policy towards South Africa, he said, did not know what positive strides had been made.

This is often misconstrued, but the fact is that the Reagan administration's position regarding South Africa forms part of its overall policy of constructive engagement in the whole of southern Africa. It is a policy designed to enable the United States to use its influence to bring about an end to racial discrimination in South Africa, and to promote peaceful change in the country. From a regional point of view, it is aimed at securing the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia, and bringing about peaceful coexistence, political stability, and economic development in the entire subcontinent. Progress already made in all these fields bears ample testimony to the effectiveness of the policy.

Editorial Says Tutu Doing RSA 'Incalculable Harm'
MB121126 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 7 Dec 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Worrying"]

[Text] With the campaign against this country gathering momentum in the United States, we are really being hammered. The political priest, Bishop Tutu, has done South Africa incalculable harm with his strident condemnation of this country each time he opens his mouth.

And because he is the Nobel Peace Prize winner, when he talks about our having "the most vicious system the world has known, calls for world action against South Africa and condemns the US policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa as "immoral, evil and totally un-Christian," he receives a receptive hearing and emotional response.

Bishop Tutu is enjoying his fame, he believes he has the protection that comes from being an international figure, and he does not care a damn about consequences of his statements. He does, of course, make it clear that he cannot advocate disinvestment because he could land in jail here, this being an offence. But nobody has any doubt that when he called for "political pressure, diplomatic pressure and, above all, economic pressure," he is advocating disinvestment and other economic measures against South Africa.

It would be dangerous to make a martyr of him by taking action against him. For example, one can imagine the international furore that would be aroused if his passport were seized again. His latest move, at a Congressional hearing, was to declare that he would never again talk to officials of the Reagan administration unless they abandoned the "evil policy" of constructive engagement.

However, he might see (how condescending this man can be) President Reagan or Secretary of State George Shultz if they invited him to a meeting. President Reagan has now granted him a private interview to discuss the South African situation. He cannot ignore Bishop Tutu because this would cause him no end of trouble.

This week the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, after briefing the President on developments in Southern Africa, reported that the President was concerned about "repression in South Africa," but the administration would not go beyond its policy of constructive engagement in trying to persuade the South African Government to abandon apartheid. All the indications are that the President will stick to this policy.

Now comes the disturbing news that 35 conservative Republican Congressmen have warned both President Reagan and the South African Government that unless there is a demonstrated sense of urgency about ending apartheid, they will urge the US Government to curtail new US investment and organise international diplomatic and economic sanctions against South Africa. They also warned that they will no longer be able to support constructive engagement if it becomes an excuse for maintaining an unacceptable status quo in South Africa.

Bishop Tutu has done his foul work of poisoning Americans against South Africa only too well. In this he is assisted by the Black group which is organising demonstrations outside our embassies, consulates and other offices in the United States, focusing attention on South Africa and getting us the same kind of bad publicity that Bishop Tutu is giving us.

Sadly, we have been losing the propaganda battle since the boycott of the Coloured and Indian elections, the Durban consulate sit-in, the riots and unrest, and the stayaway.

What the Americans falling for Bishop Tutu's line do not understand is that the curtailing of new investments, or other economic sanctions, will harm Blacks most. If they want to help avoid the "Armageddon" that Bishop Tutu talks about so often, they are going the wrong way about doing so. For Bishop Tutu, with all his pretence about wanting peace, is in fact incouraging conditions that can only lead to the worst possible situation for all people here, Whites and Blacks.

All Meetings in Johannesburg Area Banned
MB131434 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] All meetings in the Johannesburg district have been banned by Mr Schoeman, the acting chief magistrate of Johannesburg. The ban became effective this afternoon at 1600, and lasts until 1600 on Saturday afternoon. Mr Schoeman said in a statement he has reason to believe that public peace could be severely jeopardized by a meeting planned for tonight by the Transvaal Indian Congress [TIC].

Our Johannesburg news staff reports that the meeting was to be held in the Avalon Theater in Fordsburg, and that opposition would be voiced to the detention of and charges against certain members of the United Democratic Front, the TIC, the Natal Indian Congress, and the Release Mandela Committee.

ANC Blames South Africa for Killing of Swazi
MB140516 Lusaka Radio Freedom in English 1700 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] A senior Swazi police officer, Superintendant Petros Shiba, Mababane district intelligence officer, was killed last week in a hail of bullets. It is not clear what type of weapon has been used to murder Mr Shiba. However, speculations are that a submachinegun had been used, and probably an AK-47.

Minutes after the death of Mr Shiba, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, SABC, announced almost with certainty that the ANC was responsible for this act. No sooner had the South African racists taken interest in the matter, than the Swazi chief of security joined the chorus and echoed the South African tune.

In a response to this malicious claim against our movement, the ANC pointed out that it is notable that the murder of Mr Shiba

comes at a time when Swaziland and the ANC are poised to solve the problems that have existed between the two brotherly people. The ANC statement continued to point out that the murder and, indeed, the allegations against the ANC on this issue come again at a time when Pretoria has revived from the grave the issue of ceding part of the South Africa territory to the Swaziland Government.

The reason for this is not really difficult to understand. South Africa has never been interested to see any warm relations between the peoples of Swaziland and those of South Africa under the leadership of the ANC. Needless to point out that, indeed, South Africa has never been interested to see any such relations between the ANC and any country that borders with us. In order to do away with such warm brotherly relations, where carrots cannot be dangled, a stick has always assumed supremacy, though, more often than not, a combination of stick and carrot has been the order of the day. Indeed, when such dirty tricks fail, certainly black painting of the ANC is adopted. The (?case) in Swaziland is a fine example.

It is not long that, when the Lesotho Government resisted pressure from the South Africans to expel ANC refugees, a story was cooked up by the South African security forces and certain backward elements in Lesotho that ANC members in Lesotho looked down upon the traditions and general way of life of the Basotho people.

All this, together with the murder of Mr Shiba, now shifted onto the ANC, are intended to set the brotherly people of these countries against the ANC, (?thus) against the South African people. But the fact remains that only those who are not interested in the unity of the Swazi and South African people can carry out such an act against the Swazi people. Dare I say here that such an act can only be carried out by the South African Government's agents inside Swaziland and elsewhere.

To illustrate our contention, let us review the things that have been labelled against the ANC, or those that are intended to blacklist our movement. It is interesting that it is from South Africa that the allegation of ANC involvement came first from the South African mass media. This was not a mere speculation. The inference here is that South Africa knew of the plot to murder Mr Shiba by the ANC. If so, why then did they not prevent this eventuality by informing the Swazi authorities?

Secondly, the type of information that one (Ned Hooper) comes with suggests that (Hooper) is well informed or has been following the whole event closely. Then, the question is, as what? The conclusion can only be that South Africa had no information at all about the murder of Shiba, inasfar as the ANC is concerned. Or, if it had, it could have informed the Swazis and thereby enhancing their own image, and in this, completely destroy the ANC in the eyes of the Swazi people.

It is in this context that we dismiss this shameful lie. Besides, there is no well-meaning member of the ANC who can carry out such an act, particularly at this time. We can, therefore, only come to one conclusion: that it is the South African Government that has carried out this satanic act, or those elements, wherever they are who have done such a thing, certainly did so under the instruction of the South African regime in the interests of that government.

Besides, we are well aware of the South African plot against our brothers in the neighboring countries in order to discredit the ANC. We maintain that behind the death of Mr Shiba stands the ugly, murderous face of apartheid.

ZIMBABWE

Commentary Calls U.S. Policy Toward RSA 'Farce'

MB140544 Harare THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 9 Dec 84 p 10

[Editorial: "A Farce"]

[Text] As a policy that would bring results of any positive kind, the Reagan administration's policy of constructive engagement has, as widely predicted four years ago, failed and rapidly degenerated into a huge diplomatic farce. Now with what the frontline leaders were told by the Angolan president in Arusha two days ago, it is unavoidable to conclude that the whole thing has further deteriorated into a monumental hypocrisy, involving use of dishonest methods to hoodwink the world community while giving a longer lease of life to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

If the so-called negotiations to bring peace to this region are being conducted in good faith, why should Dr Crocker be used to give a totally biased and misleading briefing to the frontline heads of state and government? Selective briefing of this nature breeds suspicion and any sane person must question the whole basis of the current American manoeuvres built around "constructive engagement". In short, our leaders and the world at large are being led up the garden path. We are required to be hopeful and euphoric about a non-event.

The current American wave of antiapartheid demonstrations in New York and Washington indicates even the ordinary American's belief in the futility of their own government's policy which we in this region have always condemned. But who listens? Even the impassioned pleas of Bishop Desmond Tutu, a man of peace and Christian moderation, fell on deaf ears. In fact the bishop was virtually told by President Reagan that he did not know what he was talking about. It is this arrogant hypocrisy that now threatens continued strife and bloodshed in this region.

The United States has a record of turning friends into enemies and then wondering why its policies are opposed. We believe all countries in this part of the world are well-disposed to the United States and would leave no stone unturned in seeking ways and means of strengthening their relations with America.

But with this sequence of events, what kind of friendship can we develop? Small and poor countries though we are, it is true that we do have our pride as well.

Editorial Urges Action Against Dissidents
MB111941 Harare THE HERALD in English 3 Dec 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Time To Act"]

[Text] As we slowly but surely move towards the second General Election one cannot but allow a tinge of fear that the democratic exercise might be marred by violence. Remember this same feeling just before the last General Election in 1980? When the people refused to be drawn and fearlessly voted for Zanu (PF), the belief was that violence would erupt on Independence Day as it had in Angola. Neither the civil war nor the violence happened, and the people sighed with relief.

However, bandit activities have of late been on the increase. Two members of the legislature have recently been gunned down. Most people take this as a warning of the ugly things to come. And the tormented population asks: what is the government doing to stop the blood flowing?

Warnings to bandit-supporting ZAPU, which have not been followed with decisive action, seem to encourage that party's armed supporters who continue importune with a zeal they should have displayed during the liberation struggle but did not. The positively final last warnings that have been given to ZAPU must now be followed with action.

ZAPU, which has an unbelievable prospensity for self-destruction, has of late been doing its best to rub the party in power and the Government up the wrong way. Note the election of detained Dumiso Dabengwa and Lookout Masuku to its central committee at the recent party congress.

The bandits have destroyed, maimed and murdered in the name of these two men. The condition upon which the kidnappers of the six foreign tourists were going to let the hostages free was that Dumiso and Lookout, their commanders, be set free.

Kenneth Mano whom ZAPU selected to take over the parliamentary seat left vacant following the death of Cde [Comrade] Josiah Chinamano is the same man who recently advocated violence against ZANU in public. These actions and many others fly in the face of the Prime Minister's policy of reconciliation.

ZAPU is beyond redemption. The elections spell its complete demise. Already we are witnessing the death throws of the once-great party. Its salvation, and those of the other minority parties with whom it intends to enter into an alliance, is in the elections not being held.

That is the chilling insight into the way some power-hungry day-dreamers believe they can throttle the democracy that we cherish so much. The government has all the resources at its disposal to hit hard at the bandits and their supporters. They must utilise them and be seen to be doing something.

Once this is done, the population would not be compelled to take to the streets — and occasionally take the law into its hands — like they did recently in Beitbridge following the death of Senator Moven Ndlovu and in the Midlands before that.